三国志 49

出師の表

横山光輝

希望コミックス 147

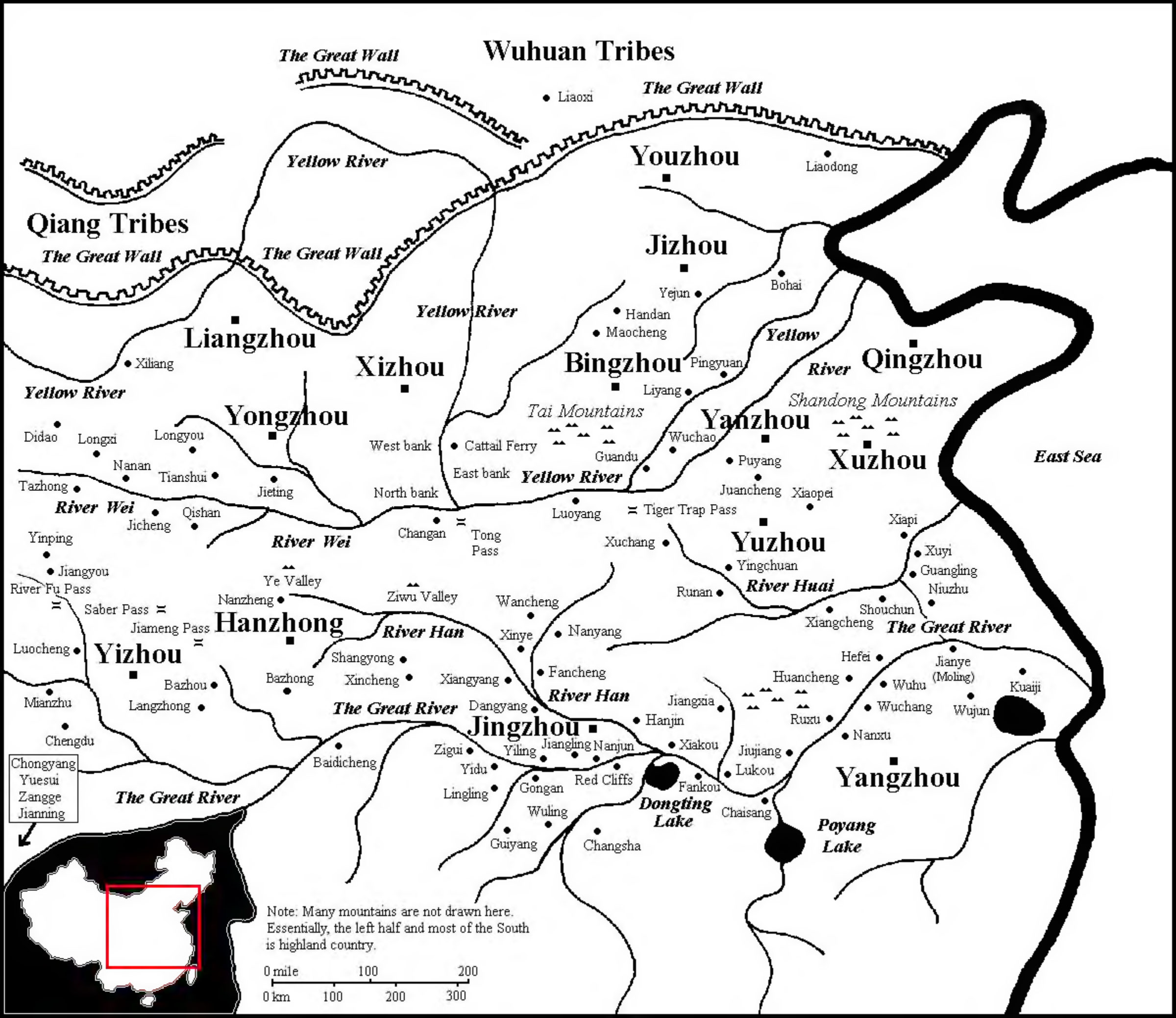
SANGOKUSHI

49

CHU SHI BIAO (PETITION FOR WAR)

SIMA YI ZHONGDA

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. RISES TO BECOME KING OF WEI BUT DECLINES TO BECOME EMPEROR HIMSELF. PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS IN VOLUME 42.

CAO HONG:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.

CAO PI:
ELDEST SON OF CAO CAO. SUCCEEDS TO KING OF WEI AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH AND SOON DETHRONES THE LAST HAN EMPEROR TO BECOME AN EMPEROR OF A NEW DYNASTY.

CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A MAID TO WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19. SERVES ALONGSIDE HIS FATHER UNTIL THEIR DEATH IN VOLUME 42.

GUAN XING:
GUAN YU'S SECOND SON, WHO BECOMES A PROMINENT SHU OFFICER AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. AFTER THE FAILED SIEGE ON FANCHENG, HE IS EVENTUALLY CAUGHT BY WU FORCES AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT DEFECTS TO LIU BEI IN VOLUME 28. FALLS IN BATTLE AGAINST WU FORCES IN VOLUME 43.

HUA XIN:
WEI MINISTER WHO RISES TO BECOME CHANCELLOR OF WEI UNDER CAO PI'S REIGN.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. HE BECOMES AN EMPEROR AND ESTABLISHES A SUCCESOR-DYNASTY TO HAN IN VOLUME 43.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21. HE IS UNFORTUNATELY EXECUTED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 43 AFTER DENYING AID TO GUAN YU.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.

LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.

LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU MENG:
FIRECE WU GENERAL, WHO AT LAST CONQUERS JINGZHOU FOR SUN QUAN, CAPTURING GUAN YU IN DOING SO. UNFORTUNATELY DIES TO A SUDDEN ILLNESS AFTER GUAN YU'S EXECUTION IN VOLUME 42, CAUSING SOME TO THINK HE WAS CURSED.

LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

LU XUN:
TALENTED WU OFFICIAL WHO QUICKLY RISES TO FAVOUR AFTER SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING THE CONQUEST OF JINGZHOU.

MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.

MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.

MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG. HE LATER DEFECTS TO WEI IN VOLUME 43, AFTER REALIZING HE WOULD BE KILLED IN SHU TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG. PERISHES IN THE BATTLE OF FANCHENG AGAINST GUAN YU IN VOLUME 41.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH-LANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.

SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.

SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.

XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG BAO:
ELDEST SON OF ZHANG FEI, WHO RISES TO PROMINENCE AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU. HIS TEMPER EVENTUALLY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM, WHEN HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS SUBORDINATES IN VOLUME 43.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.

ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).

ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE. COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER LEARNING GUAN YU WAS EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 49
CHU SHI BIAO (PETITION FOR WAR)

CHU SHI BIAO 177
SIMA YI DISMISSED 156
MANIFESTO 131
TRIUMPHAL RETURN 108
HEARTFELT SUBMISSION 76
FIFTEEN RETREATS 47
RATTAN ARMOUR 20
WUGUO KINGDOM 7
TABLE OF CONTENTS

（月刊『ヤングキングアワーズ』掲載）

WUGUO KINGDOM

ARE THESE THE ONLY MEN STILL WITH US?

IS THERE ANY PLACE WE CAN LAY LOW FOR A WHILE AND BUILD UP OUR STRENGTH?

WE CAN'T WAGE A WAR LIKE THIS...

HM?

ABOUT 700 LI SOUTHEAST FROM HERE IS THE WUGUO KINGDOM.

ONE PLACE COMES TO MIND.

WHERE!?

RATTAN ARMY?

THE KING THERE IS WUTU GU, AND THE KINGDOM IS FAMOUS FOR ITS ELITE, RATTAN ARMY.

WHY THE TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS?

RATTAN TREES ARE FOUND ALL THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLES OF WUGUO KINGDOM. THEIR PEOPLE STEEP IT IN OIL FOR HALF A YEAR, THEN DRY IT IN THE SUN. THIS PROCESS IS REPEATED MANY TIMES UNTIL IT CREATES AN EXTREMELY HARD MATERIAL SUITABLE FOR ARMOUR.

I SEE...

IF THERE IS ANY FORCE STILL CAPABLE OF DRIVING THE SHU ARMY AWAY, IT IS SURELY THE RATTAN ARMY OF WUGUO.

THE RATTAN ARMOUR MADE AFTER THIS LABORIOUS PROCESS FLOATS ON WATER, YET IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP ALL ARROWS AND BLADES.

THEN ALLOW ME TO GO FIRST AND TELL HIM YOU WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY TO WUGUO.

VERY WELL, LET US GO REQUEST KING WUTU GU'S HELP.

MENG HUO AND THE SCANT REMNANTS OF HIS ARMY NOW HEADED TOWARDS THEIR LAST HOPE, WUGUO

YES, HE SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO HELP US.

SHOULDN'T WUTU GU BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE?

OH?

WE ARE NOW IN WUGUO LANDS.

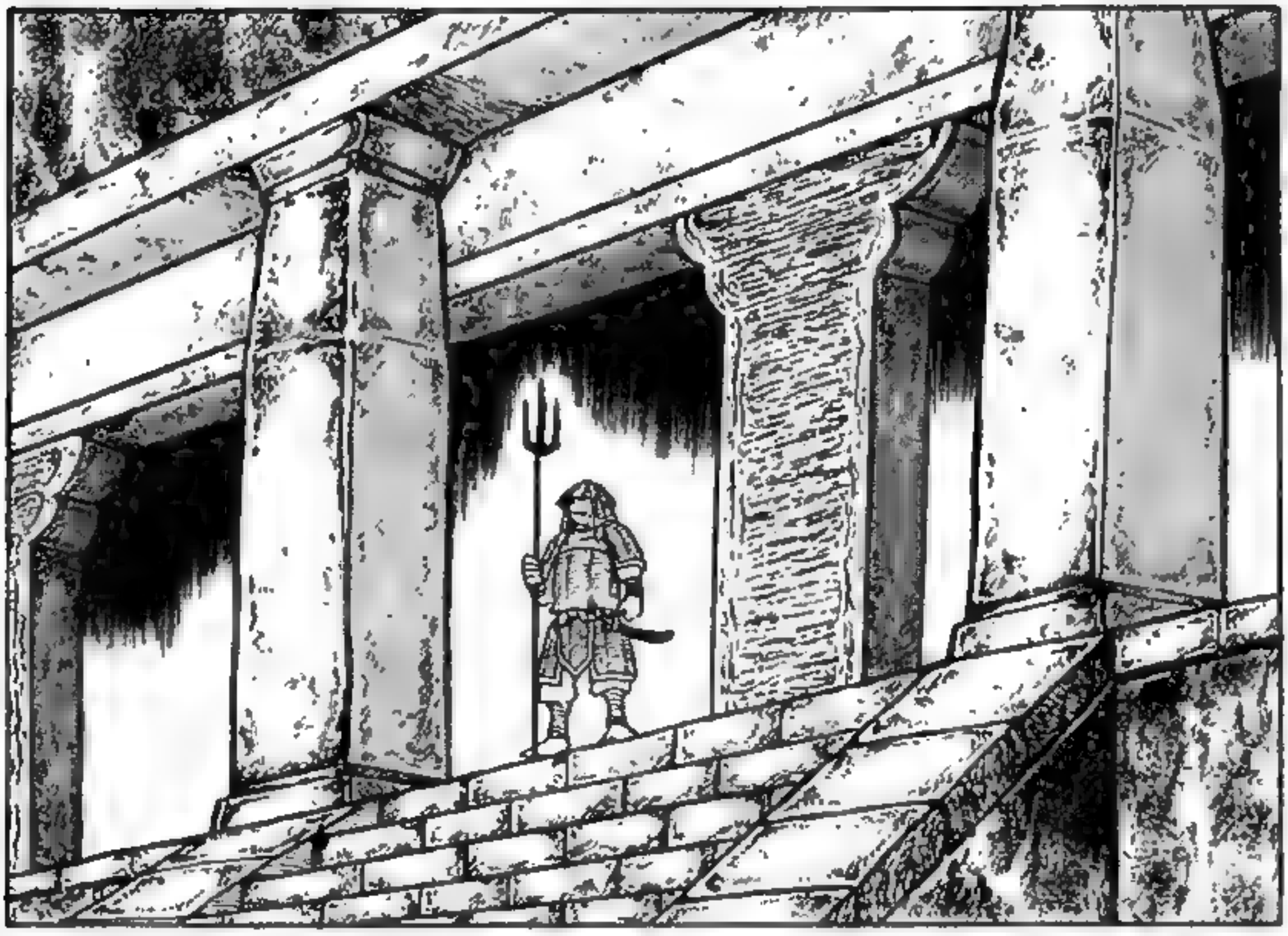
THAT IS BECAUSE THE WUGUO PEOPLE DWELL IN CAVES INSTEAD.

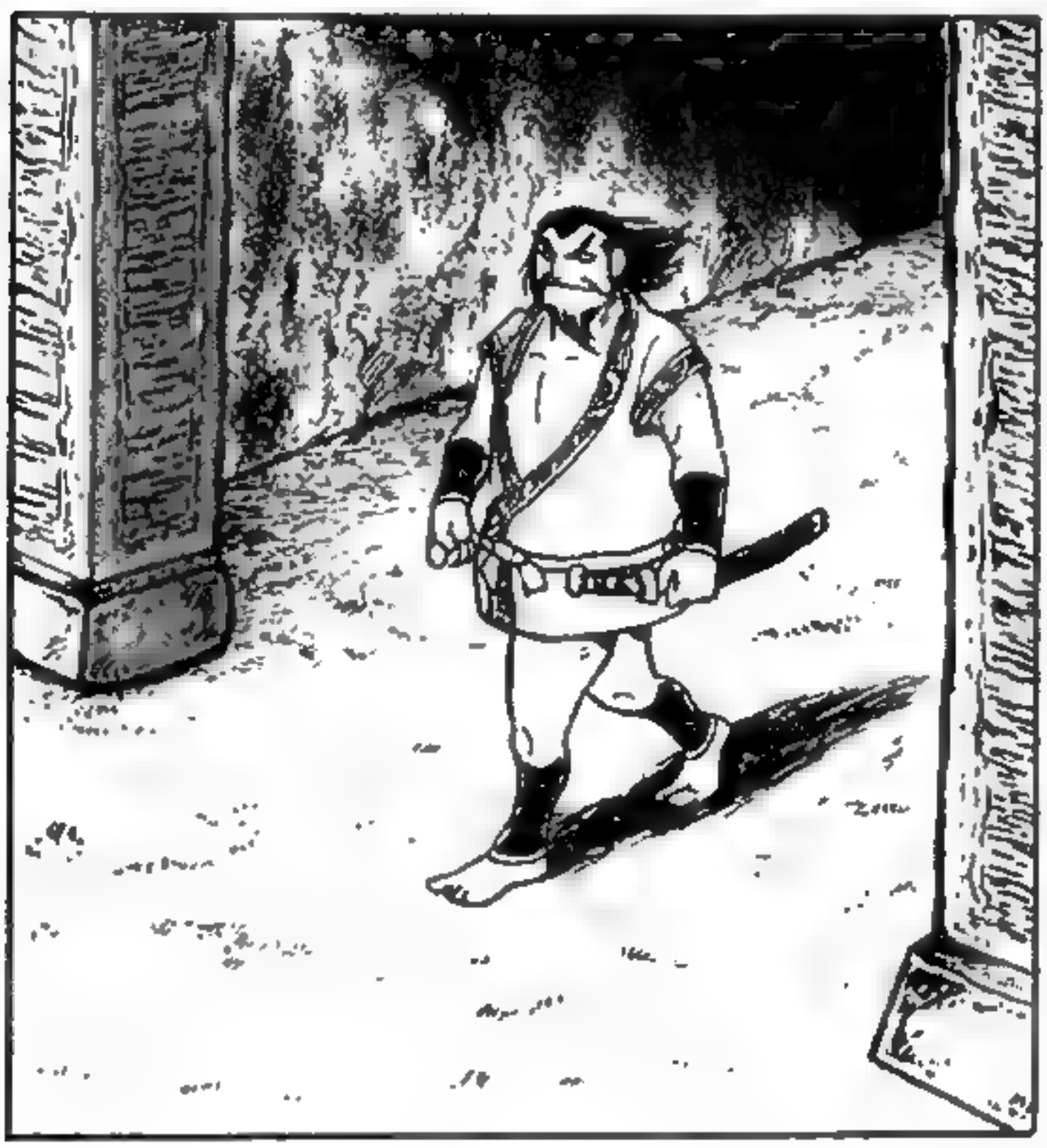
HMM, I DON'T SEE MANY BUILDINGS OR HOUSES AROUND HERE...

OHH!
AH, OVER THERE!

SO THESE ARE THE CAVES YOU WERE REFERRING TO...

THAT IS WHERE KING WUTU GU RESIDES.

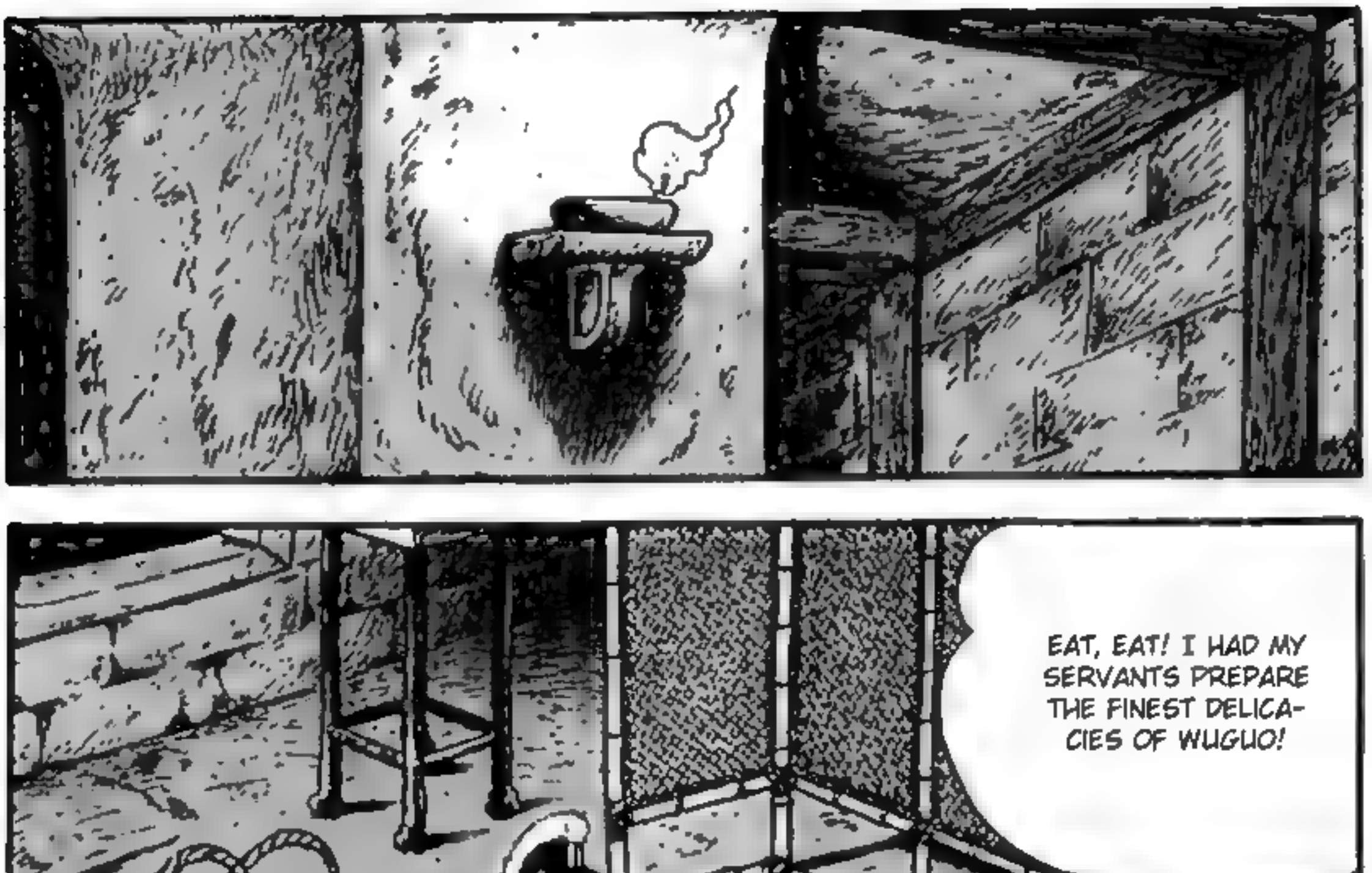




A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

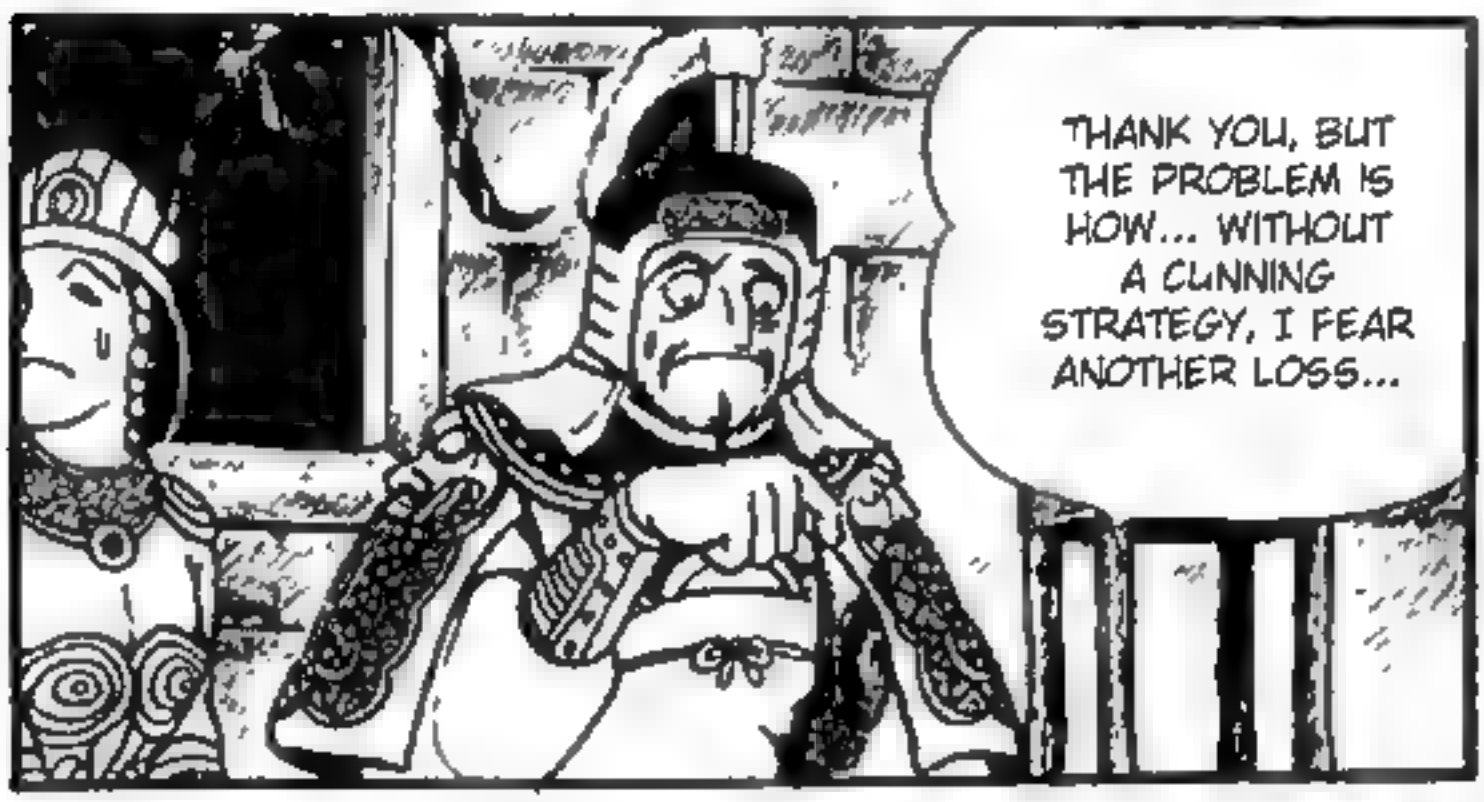
AH, YOU MUST BE KING MENG HUO OF THE NANMAN. I AM WUTU GU, THE WUGUO KING.

COME INSIDE. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.


EAT, EAT! I HAD MY SERVANTS PREPARE THE FINEST DELICACIES OF WUGUO!

I WILL GLADLY HELP YOU GET BACK YOUR LANDS.

I'VE BEEN INFORMED OF YOUR TROUBLES. THE LOSS OF A NEIGHBOURING KINGDOM TO A FOREIGN INVADER ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN RISK TO IGNORE.


THANK YOU, BUT THE PROBLEM IS HOW... WITHOUT A CUNNING STRATEGY, I FEAR ANOTHER LOSS...

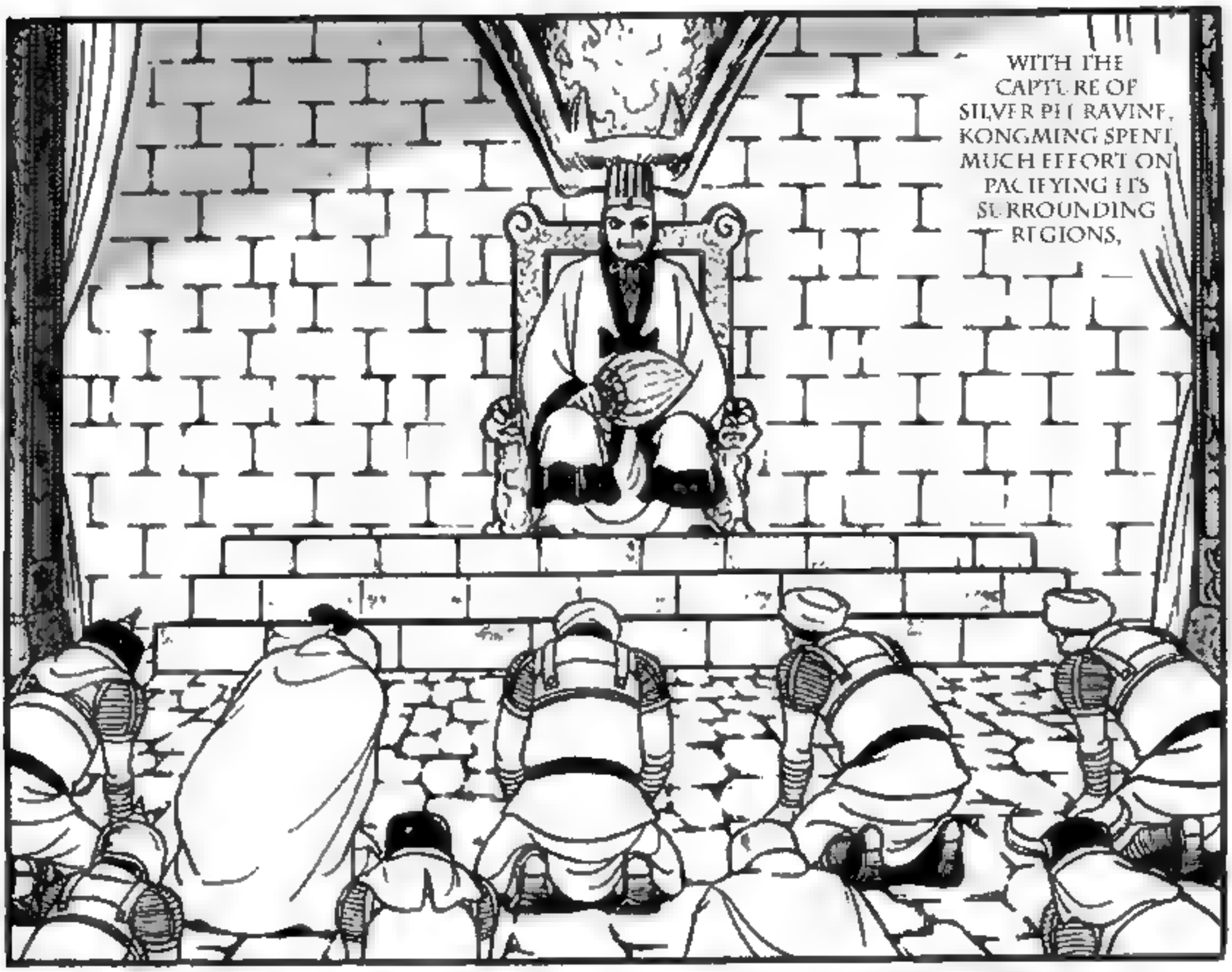
AH YES, I DID HEAR ABOUT THE INVINCIBLE QUALITY OF YOUR ARMOUR.

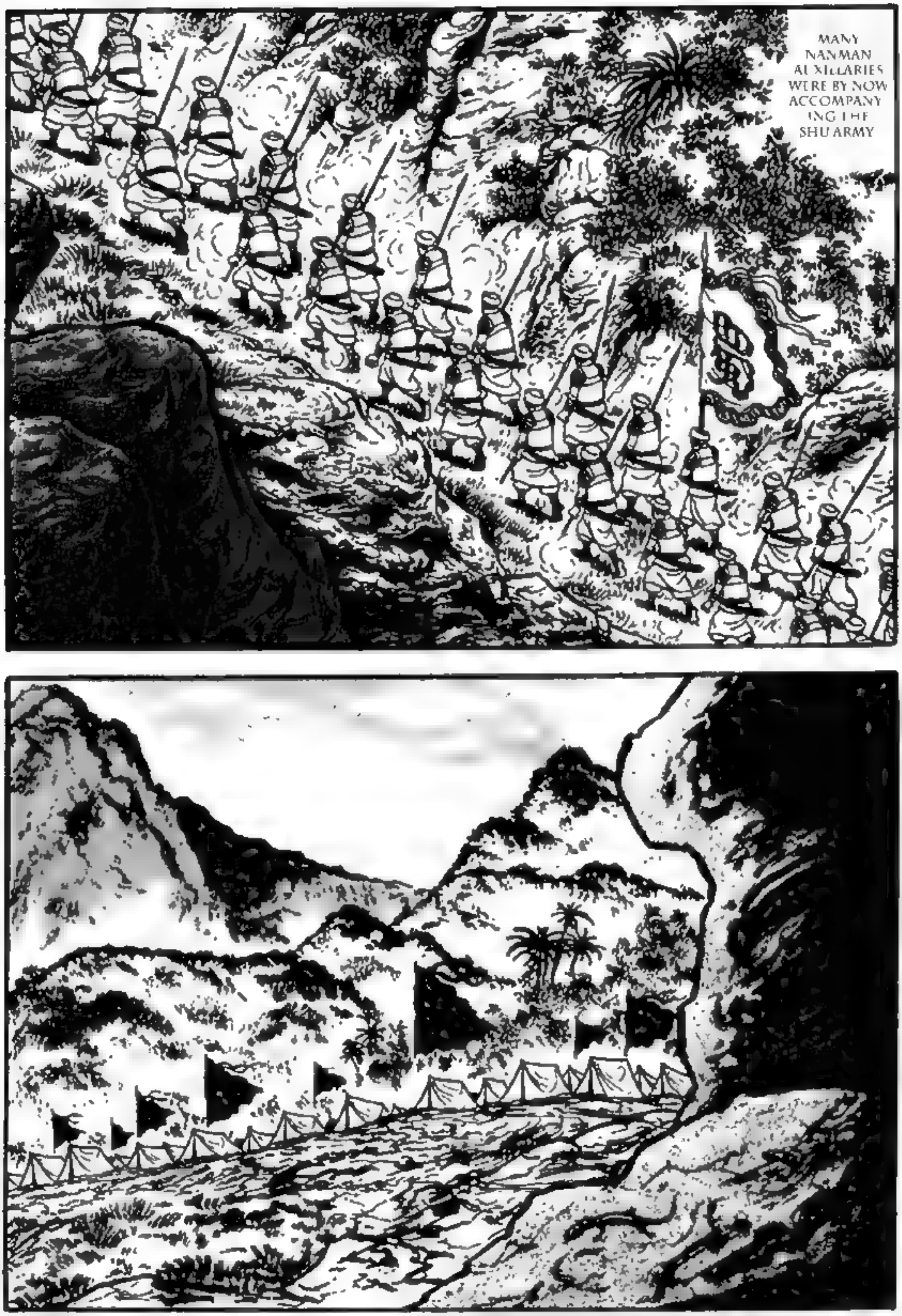
ARROWS AND BLADES ARE ALL MEANINGLESS BEFORE MY MEN DRESSED IN RATTAN ARMOUR. EVEN WHEN FULLY ARMOURED, THEY CAN EASILY SWIM ACROSS RIVERS.

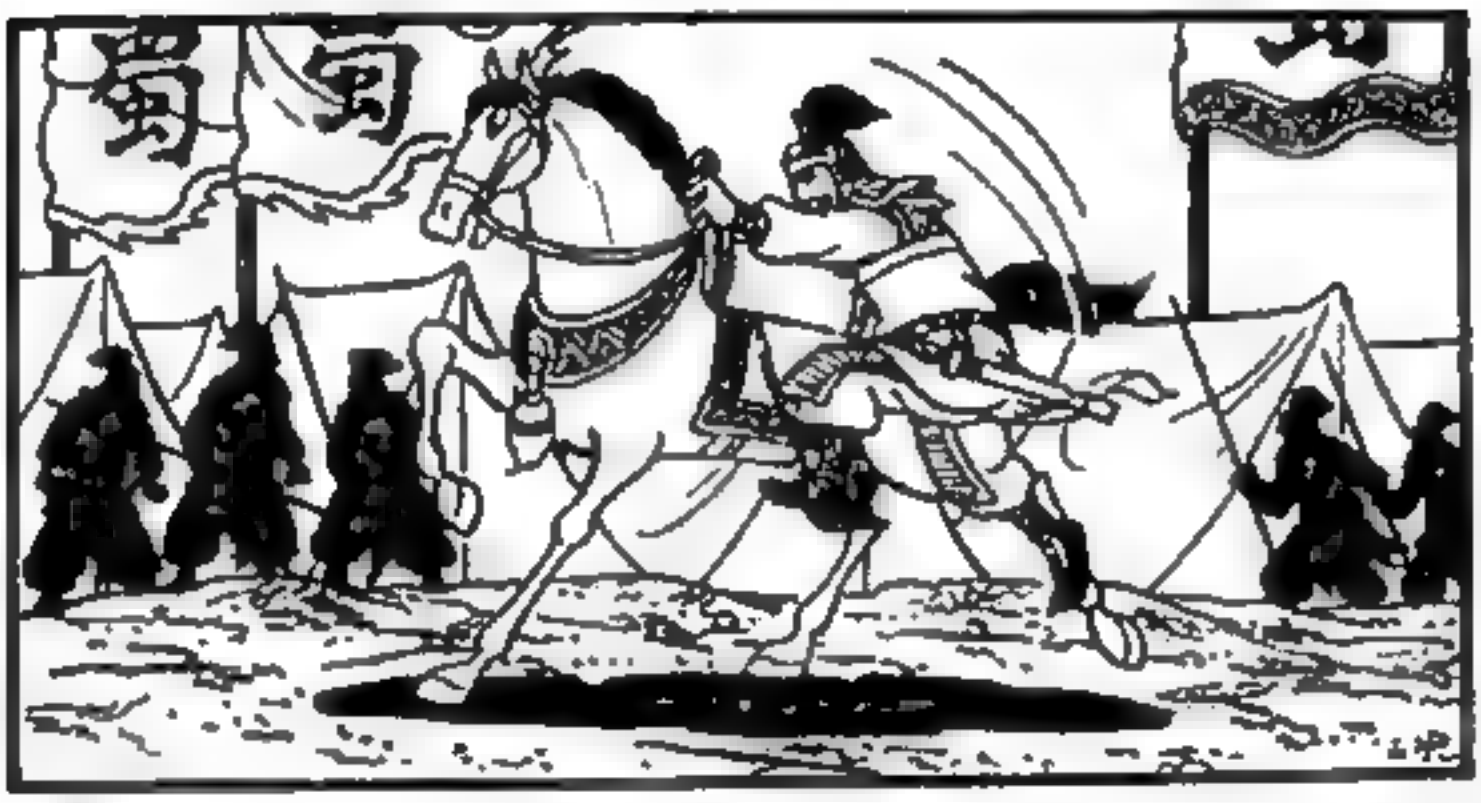
HM?
MOREOVER, WE WILL MAKE CAMP NEAR PEACH FLOWER RIVER AND AWAIT THE SHU ARMY THERE.

THE RIVER IS FULL OF PEACH LEAVES FALLING INTO IT, YEAR AFTER YEAR, MAKING IT TOXIC FOR MOST PEOPLE. SOME EVEN DIE FROM DRINKING IT.
HOWEVER, FOR US LOCALS WHO'VE BEEN DRINKING ITS WATER SINCE AS KIDS, WE ARE IMMUNE TO ITS TOXICITY.
Y-YES, I HOPE THINGS GO AS WELL AS YOU PLAN.
DENIED DRINKING WATER AND UPON FINDING THEIR WEAPONS UTTERLY USELESS, THEIR ROUT IS ALREADY GUARANTEED!

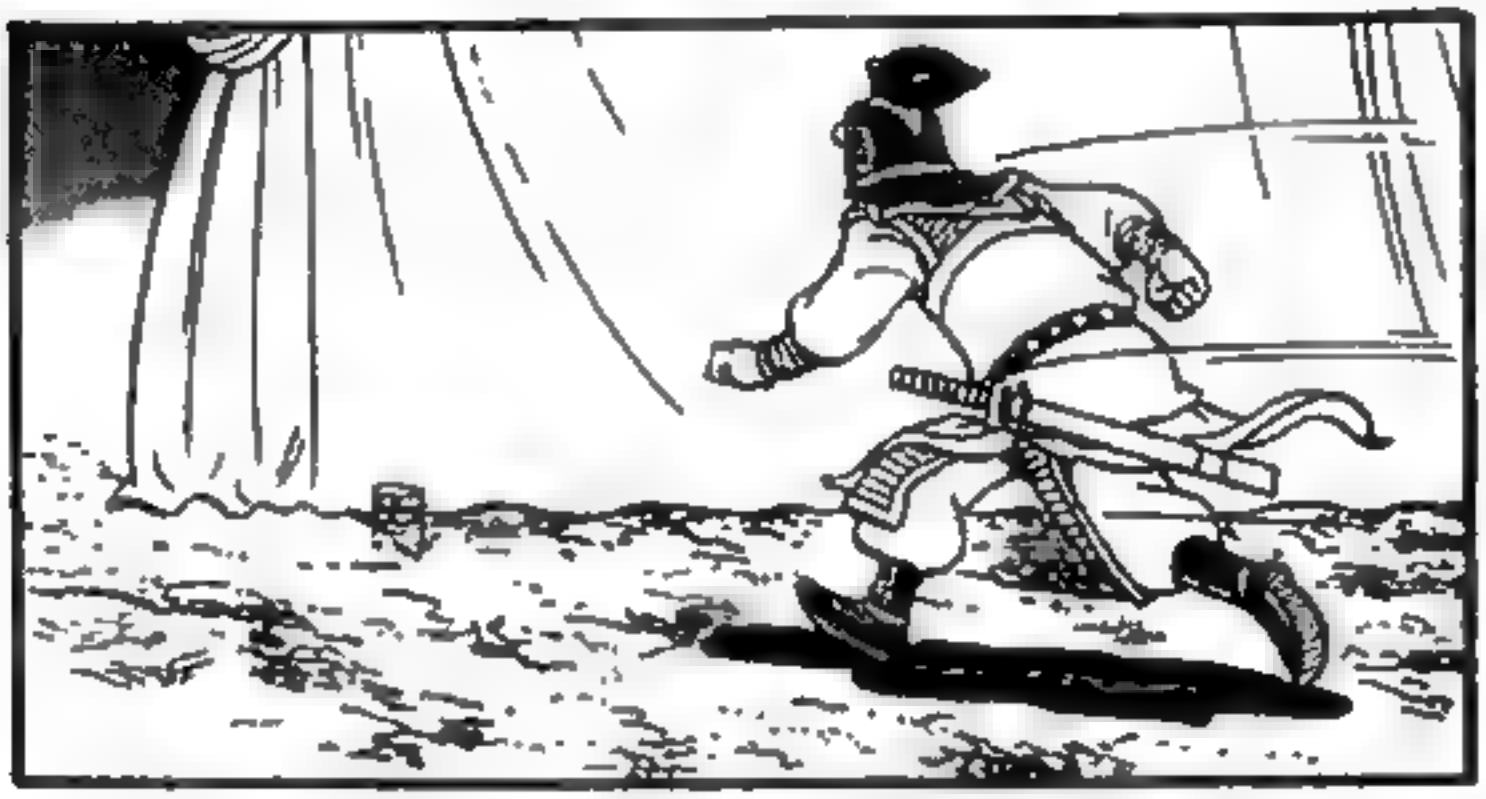
RATTAN ARMOUR

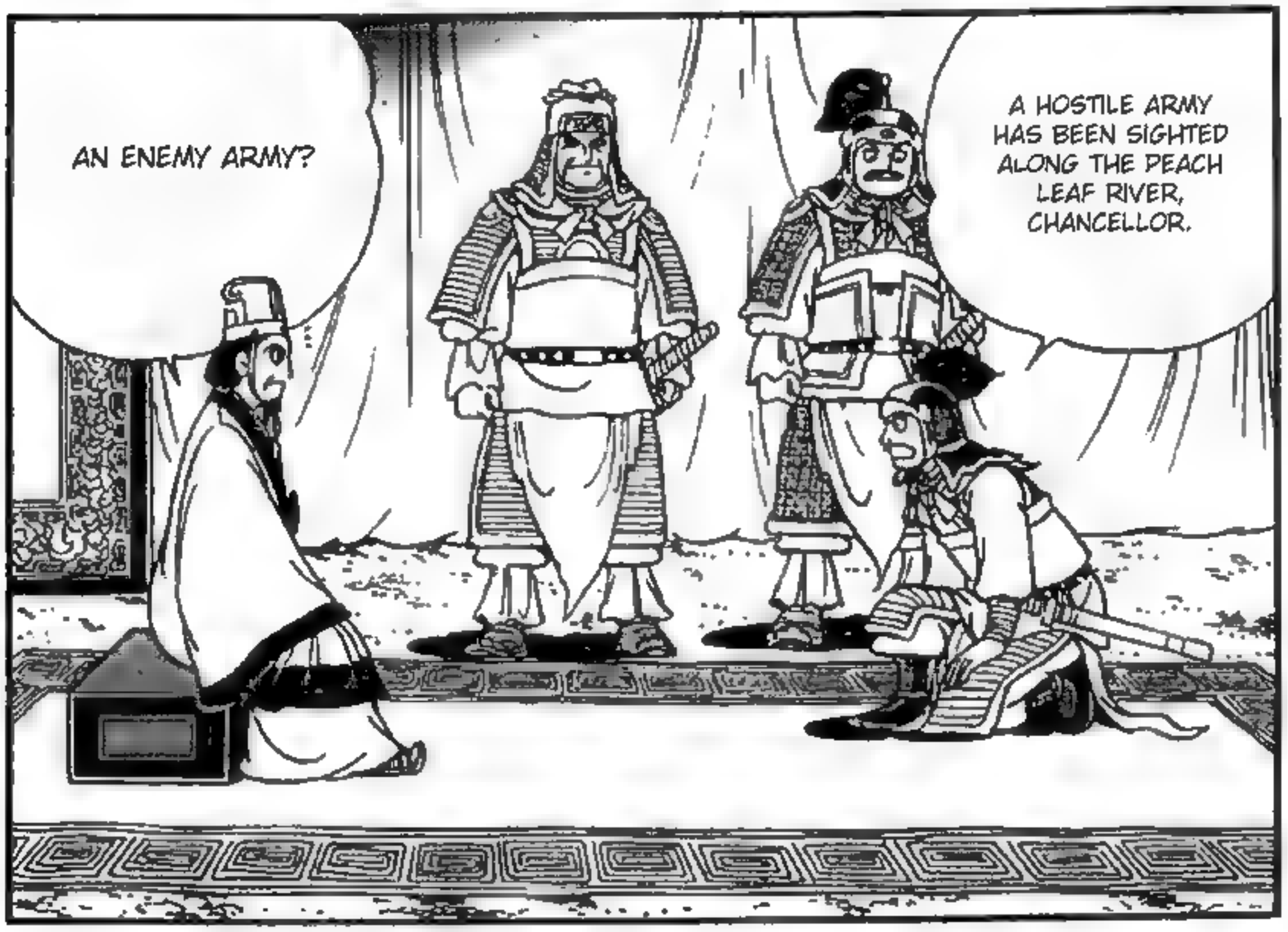



MANY
NANMAN
AUXILLARIES
WERE BY NOW
ACCOMPANY
ING THE
SHU ARMY


蜀
蜀

カッカッ



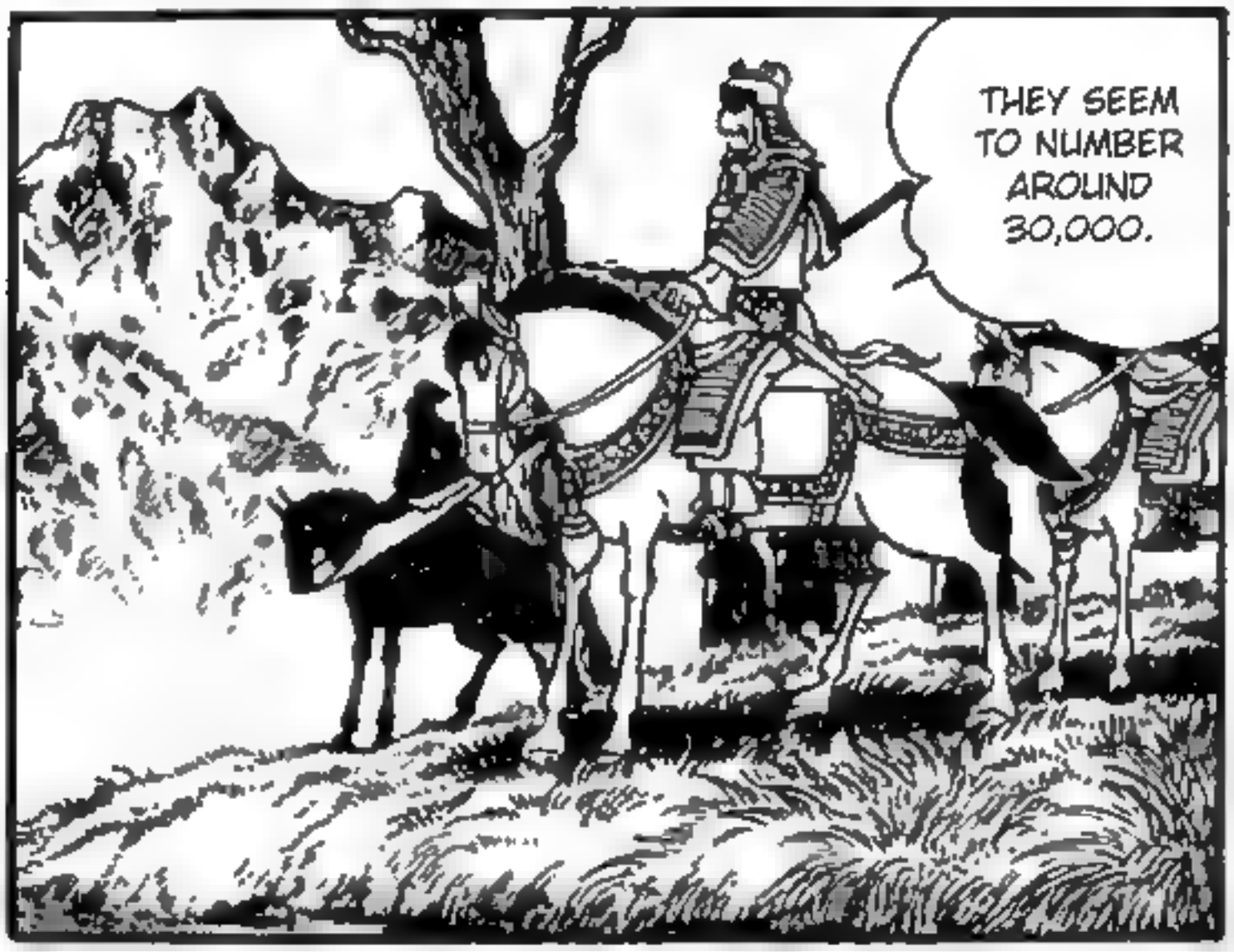

AN ENEMY ARMY?
A HOSTILE ARMY HAS BEEN SIGHTED ALONG THE PEACH LEAF RIVER, CHANCELLOR.

YES, SIR.

WEI YAN, LEAD THE VANGUARD AND MEET THIS ARMY.

魏延

LET'S MOVE OUT, MEN!


THEY SEEM TO NUMBER AROUND 30,000.

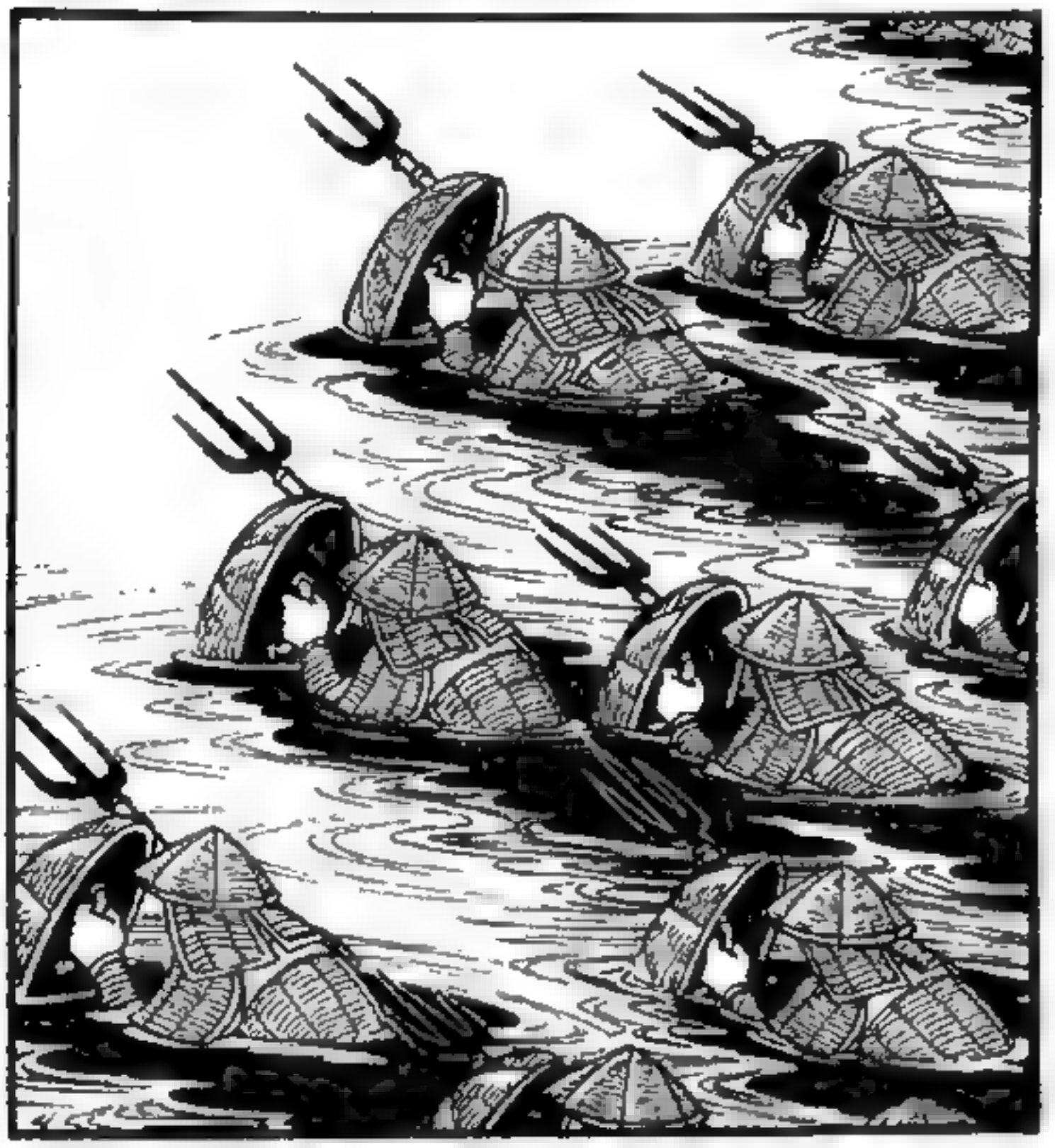
SO THAT'S THEM, HMM...

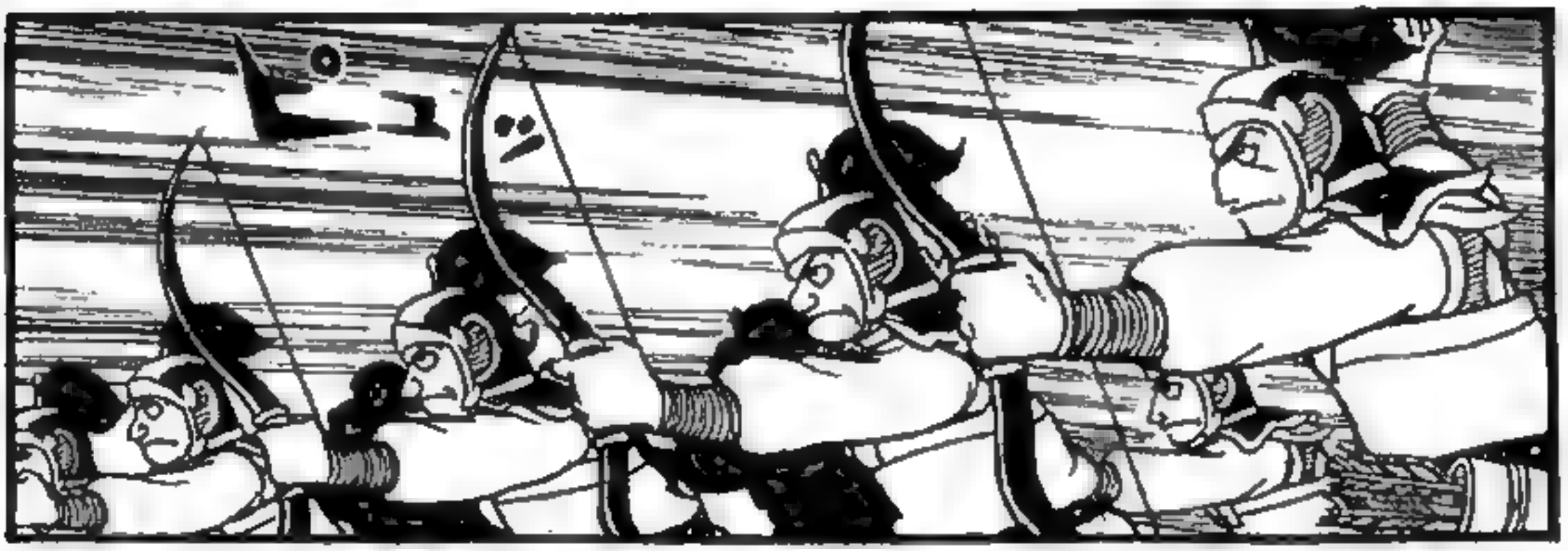
GENERAL WEI YAN, THE ENEMIES ARE COMING FORWARD!

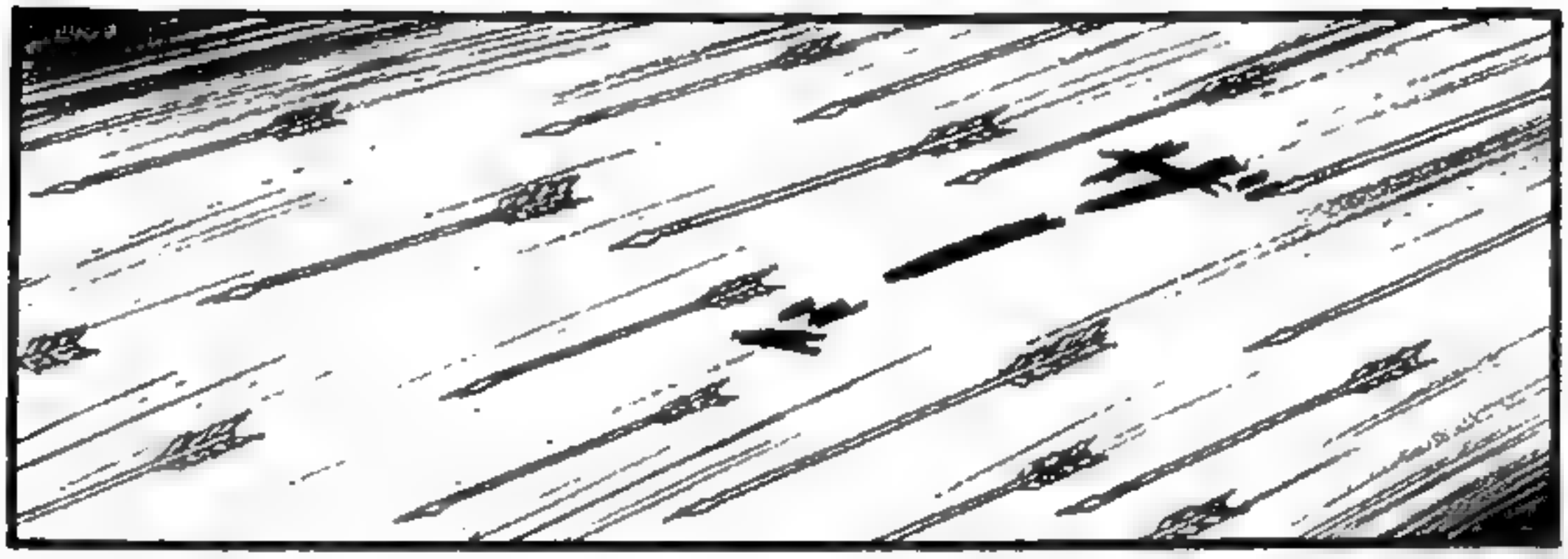
SHOWER THEM WITH ARROWS WHILE THEY'RE CROSSING THE RIVER!

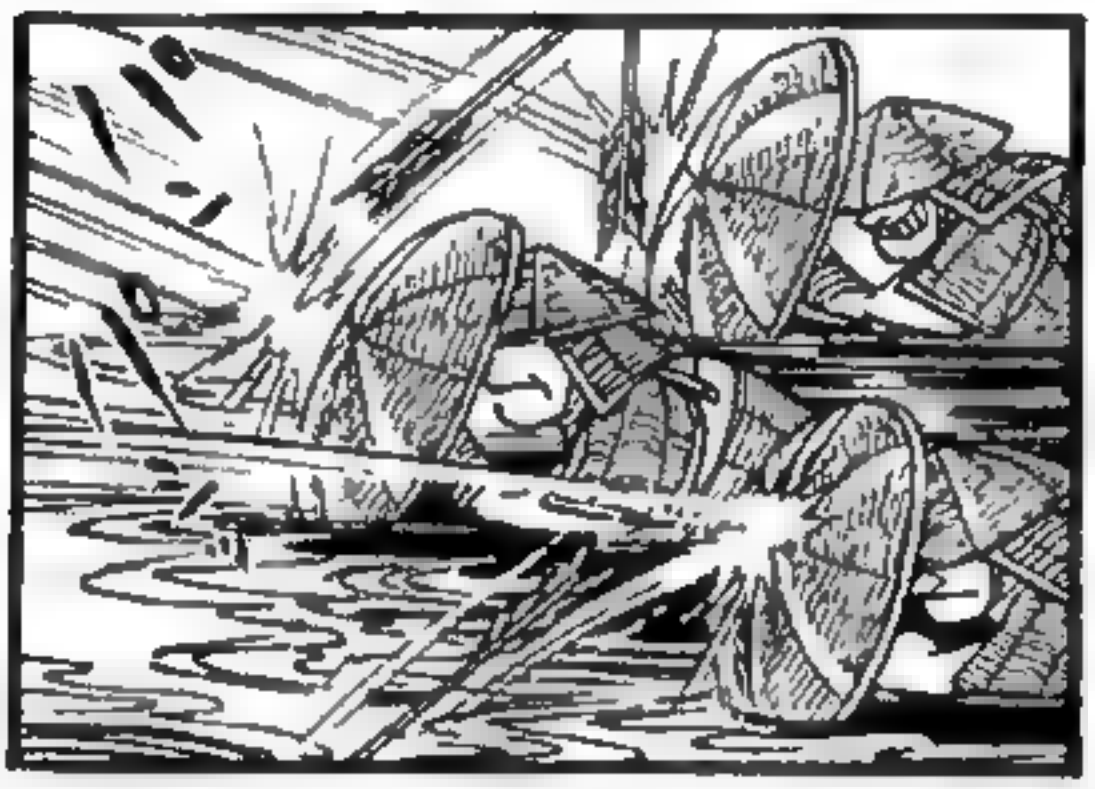
THEY MUST ALL BE VERY STRONG SWIMMERS.
WHAT ON EARTH...!? THEY'RE CROSSING THE RIVER WITHOUT BARGES OR BOATS EVEN WHEN FULLY ARMOURED!

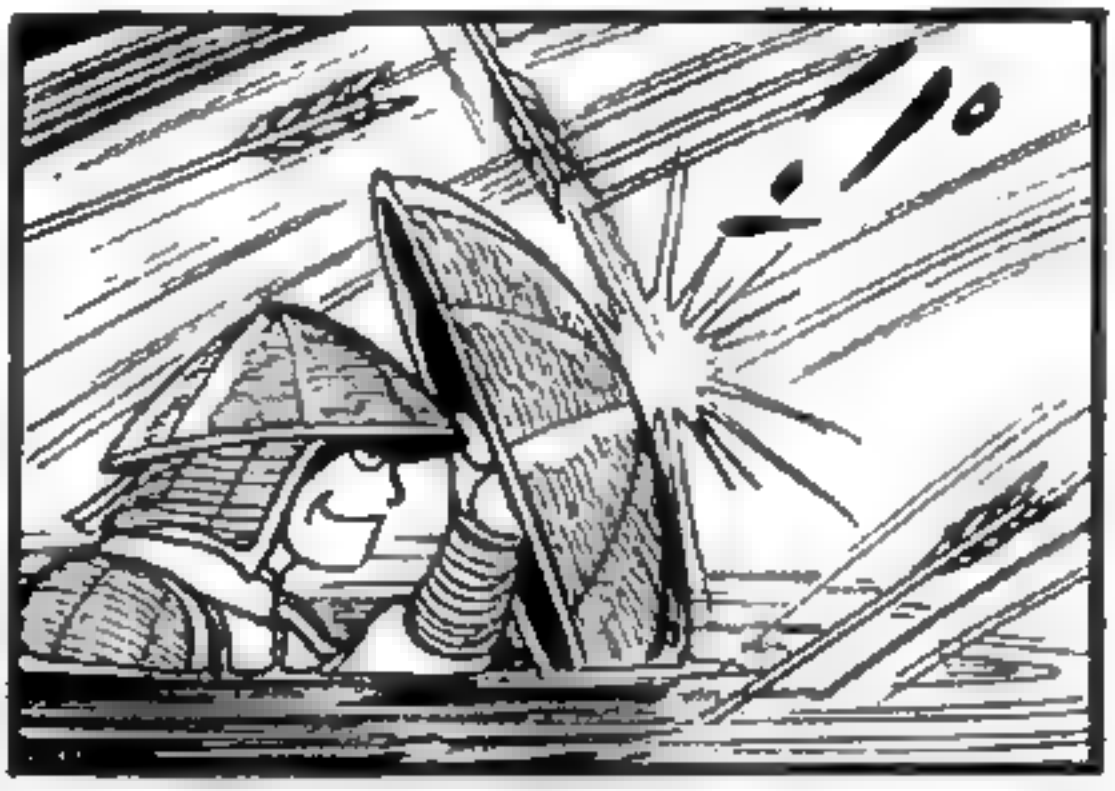
SHOOT!









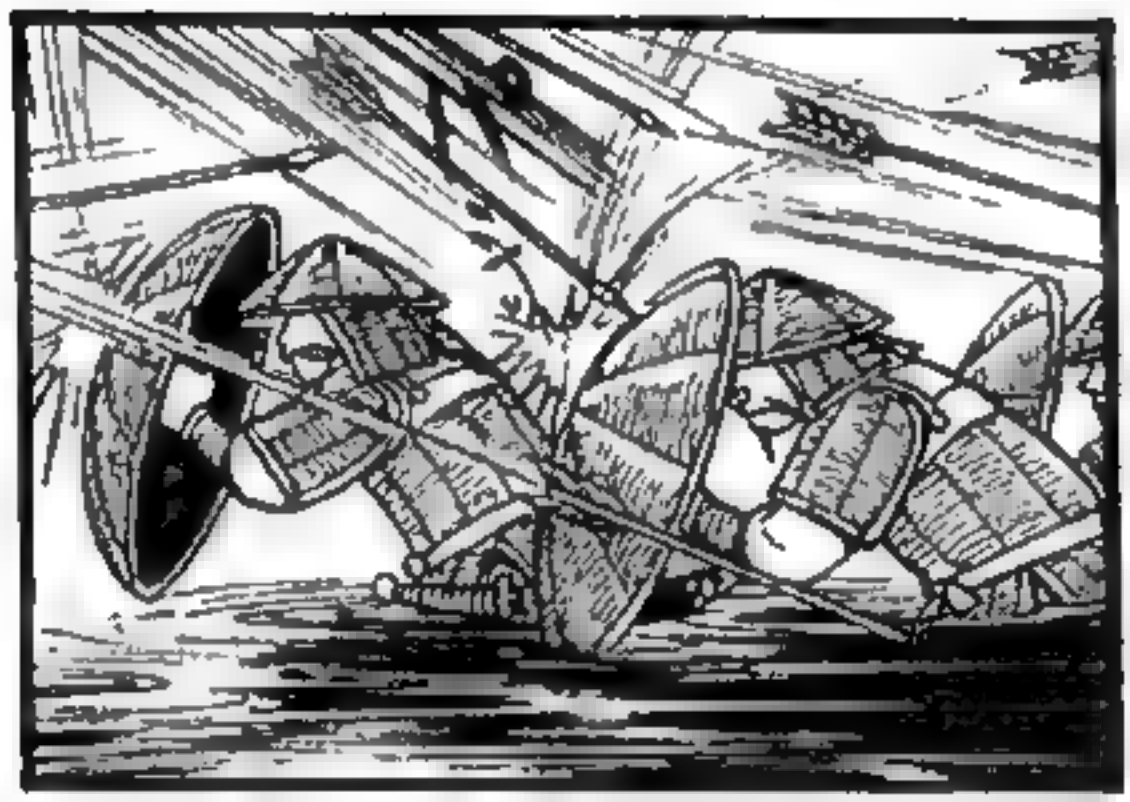


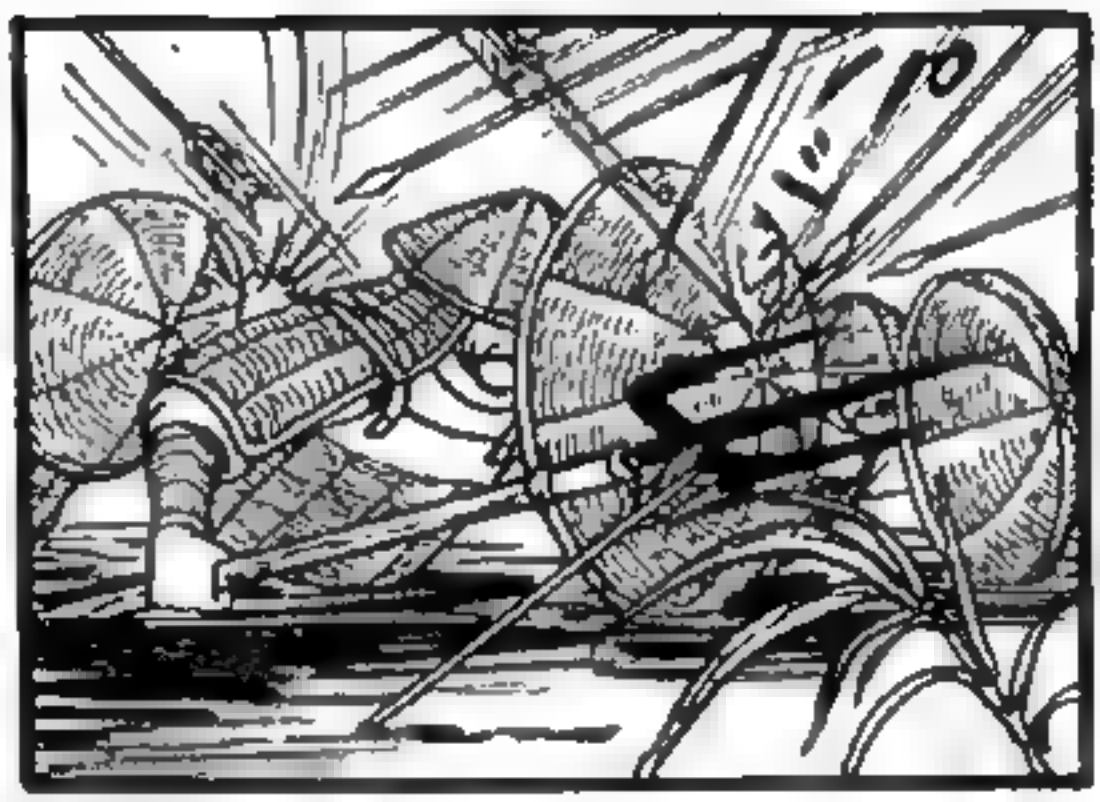
KEEP SHOOTING!

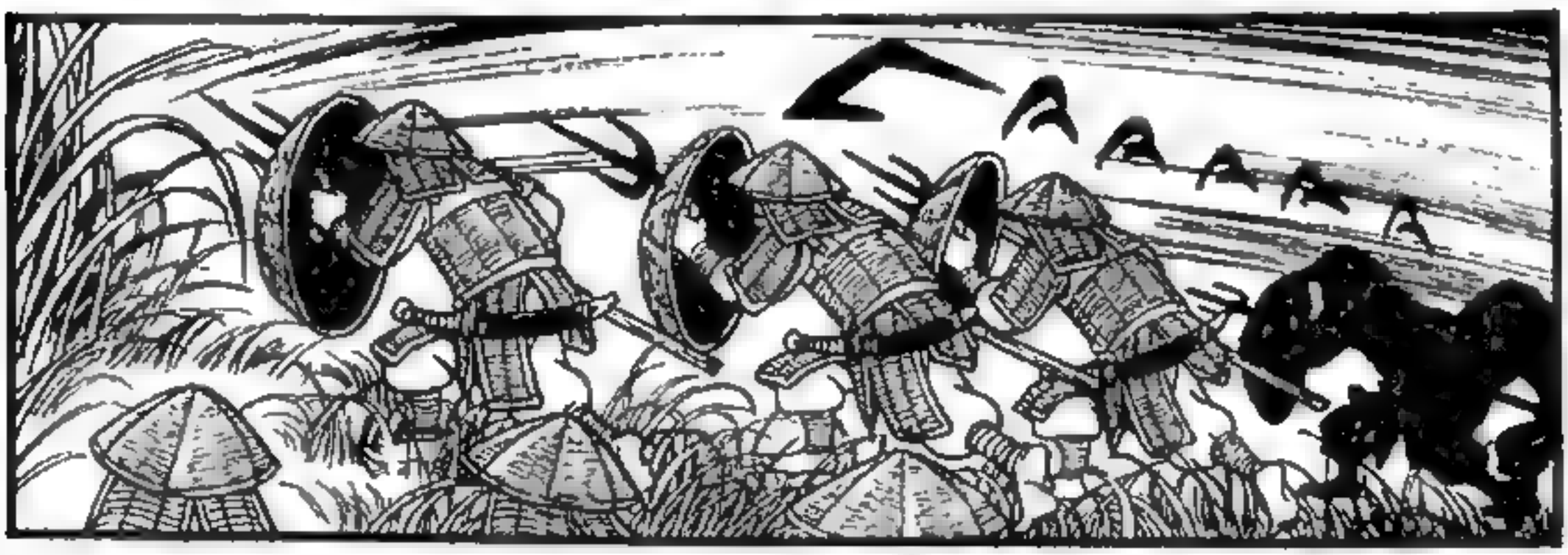
HM?

TWANG
TWANG

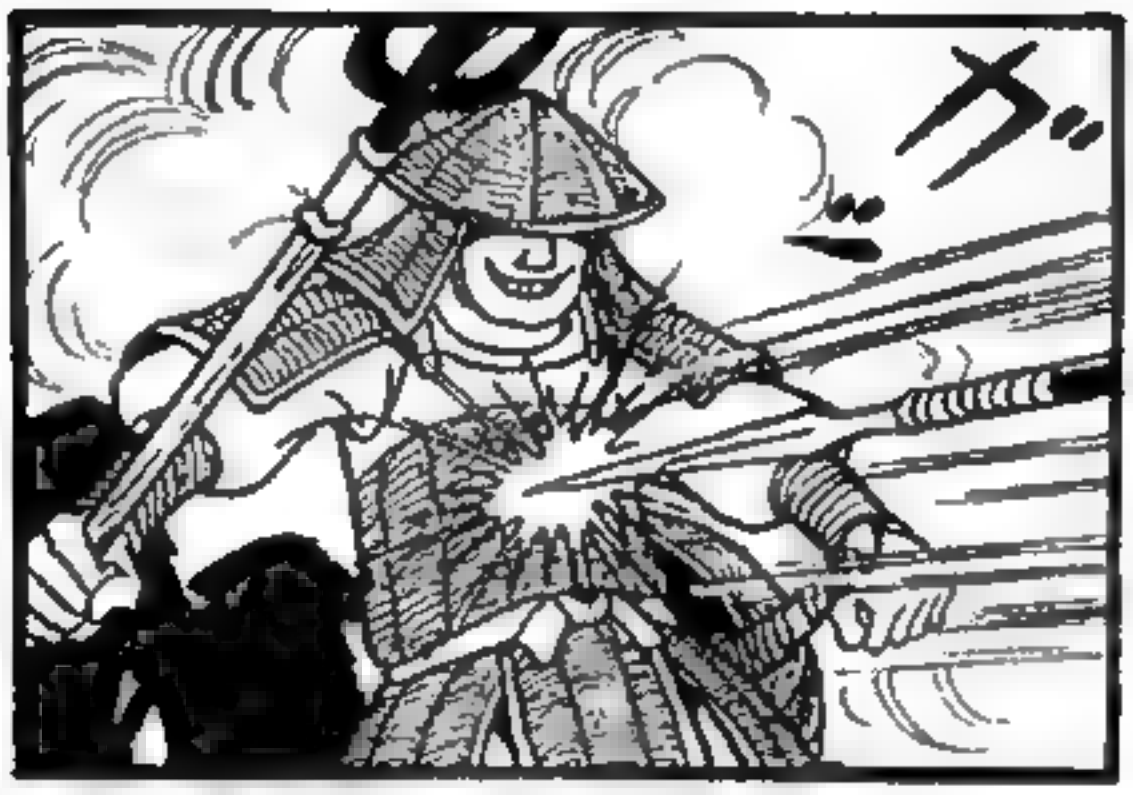
THE ARROWS ARE JUST BOUNCING OFF, SIR!

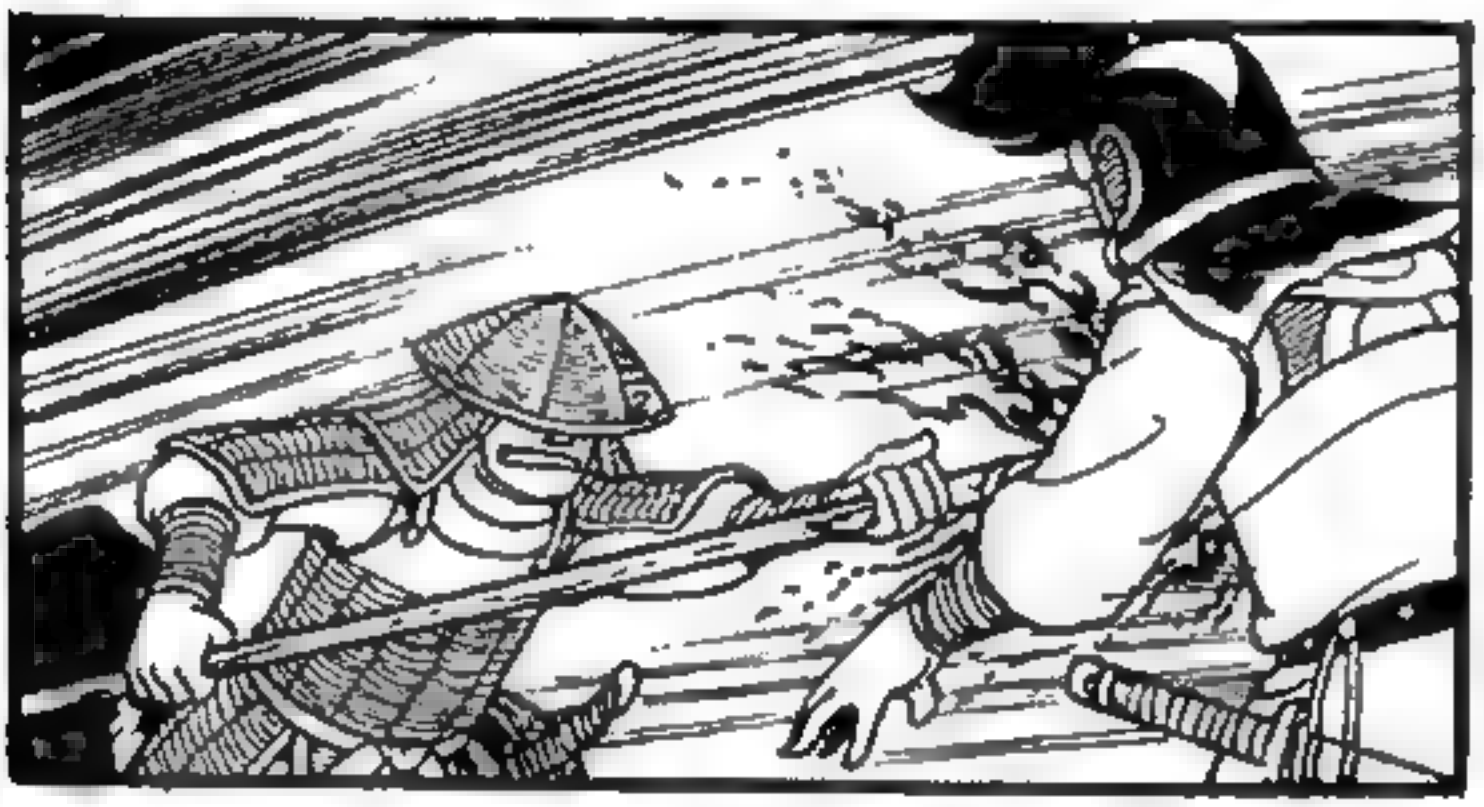




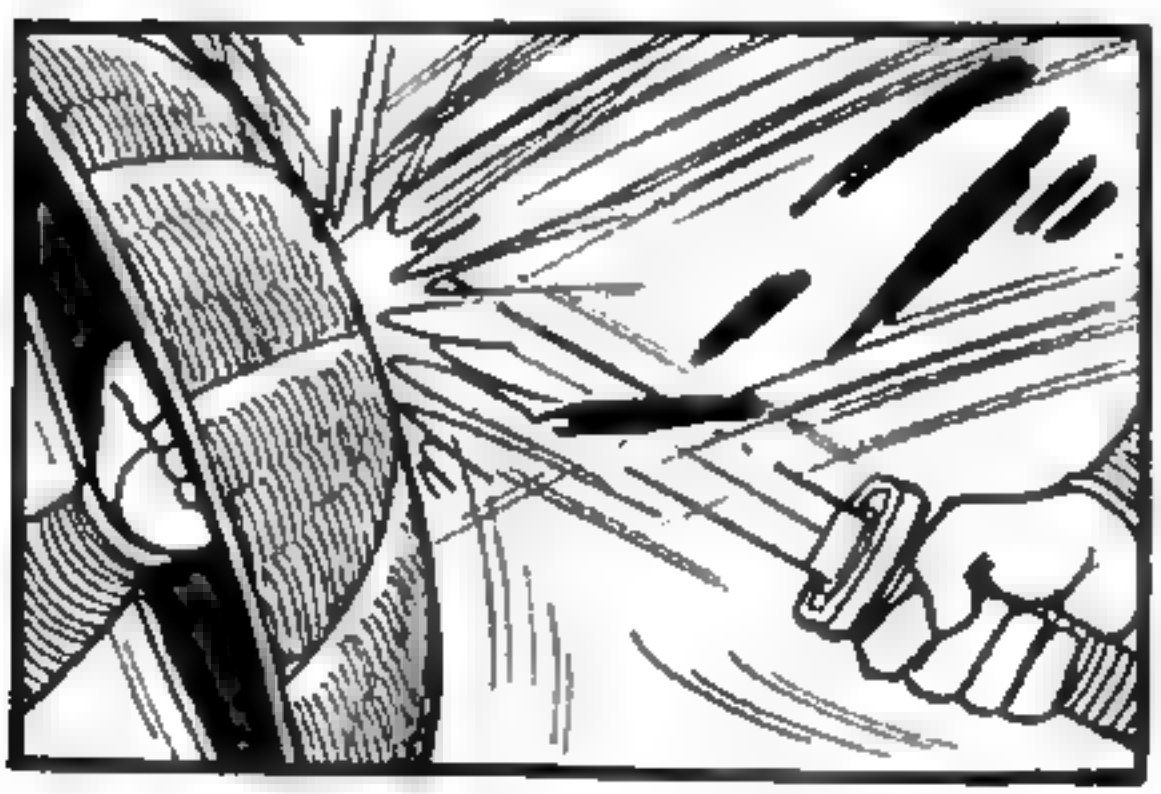


PREPARE FOR CLOSE COMBAT!



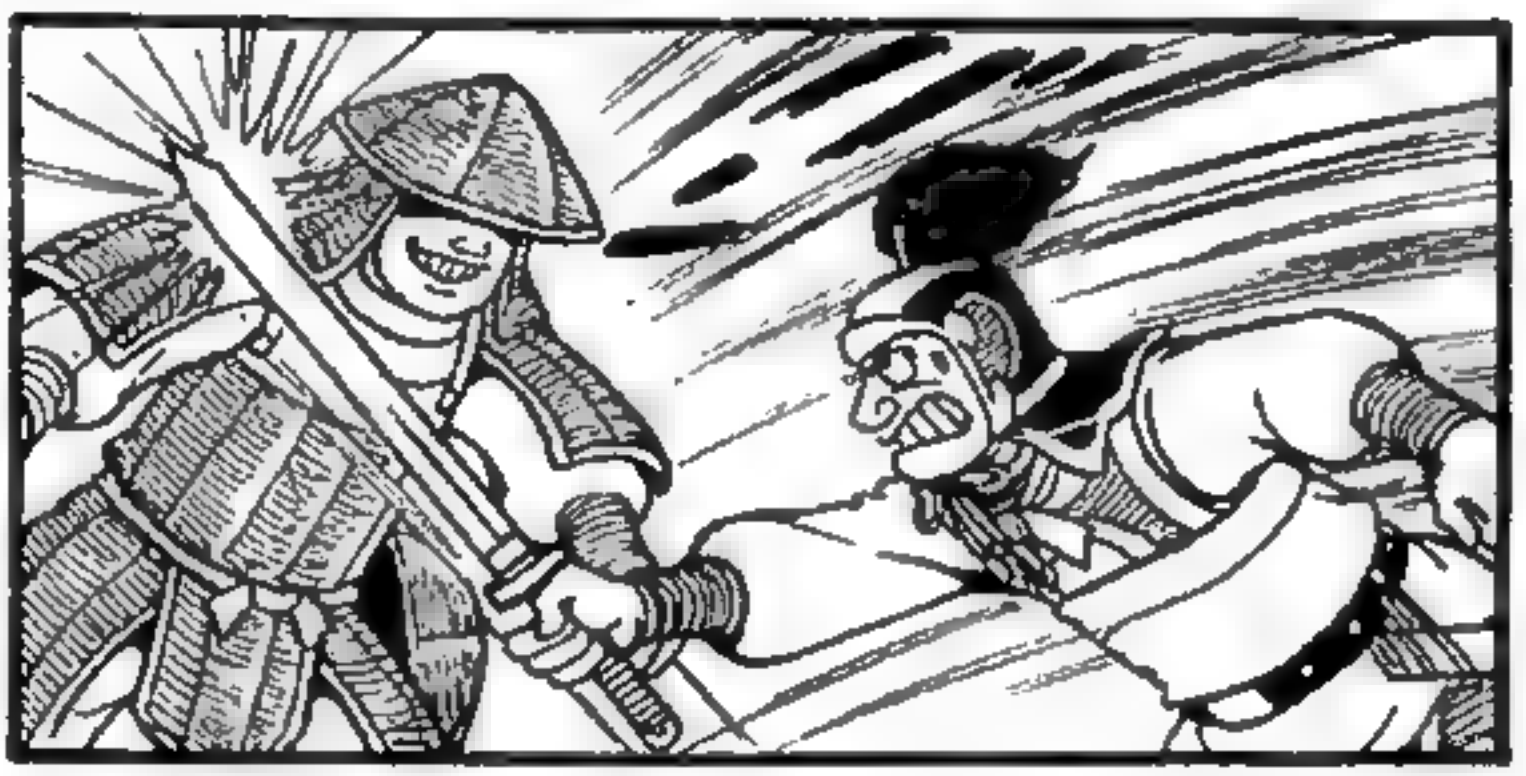


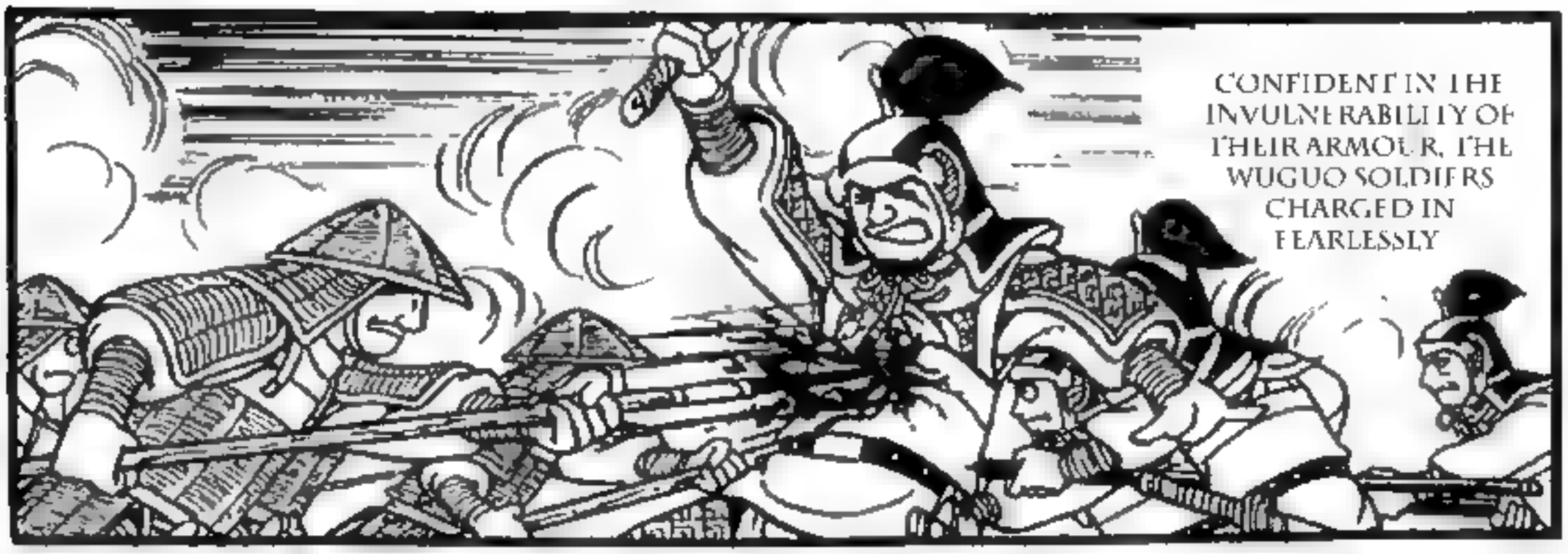
?



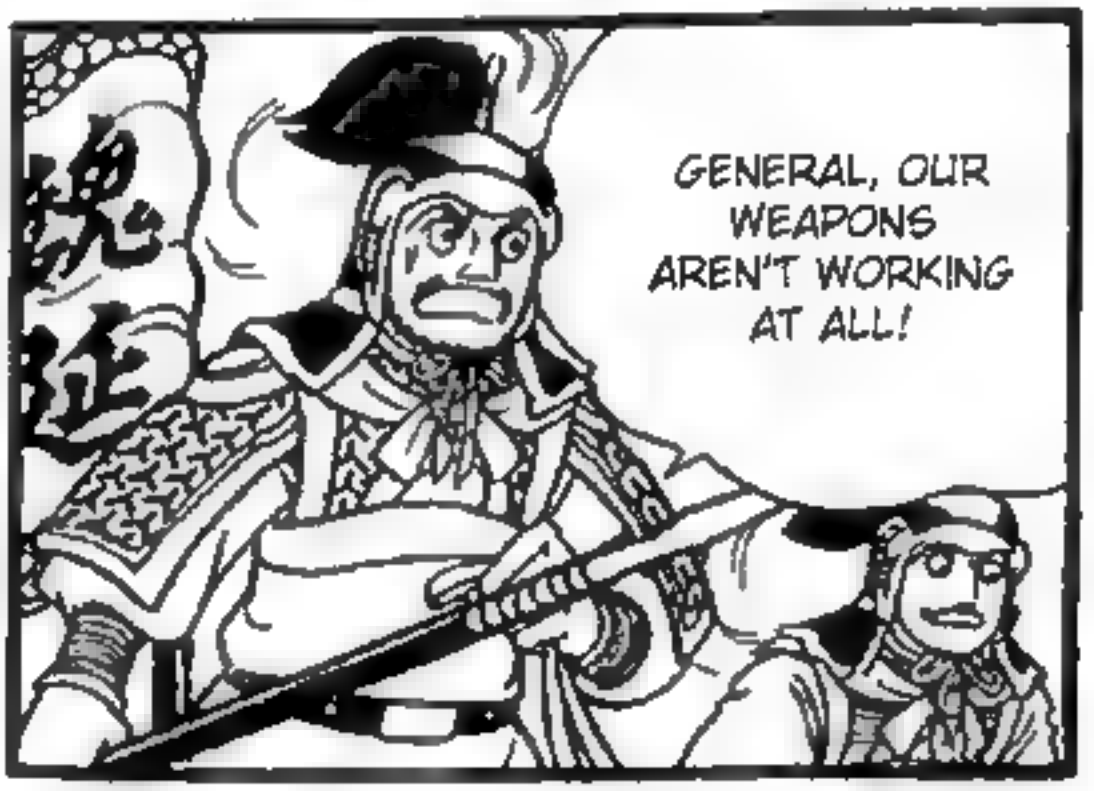
NGHH!

?




CONFIDENT IN THE INVULNERABILITY OF THEIR ARMOUR, THE WUGUO SOLDIERS CHARGED IN FEARLESSLY

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH STRONG ARMOUR...!


GENERAL, OUR WEAPONS AREN'T WORKING AT ALL!

ブオオオ

RETREAT FOR NOW! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE FURTHER LOSSES!

WE CAN'T LET THEM OFF THAT EASY THOUGH.
GIVE THEM CHASE!
HAHAHA! LOOK AT THOSE COWARDS TURN TAIL!

はははは
はははは

THE UPCOMING BATTLES WILL BE A JOY TO OBSERVE!
THE ENEMIES WILL SURELY HAVE TROUBLE DEALING WITH THEM.

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY OWN EYES!
DID YOU SEE THAT!?

YES, MY MEN HAD NO IDEA HOW TO DEAL WITH THESE INVULNERABLE ENEMIES.
AN ARMOUR THAT CAN STOP ALL ARROWS AND BLADES?

I BELIEVE WEI YAN IS REFERRING TO THE RATTAN ARMY OF WUGUO KINGDOM.
LU KAI, DO YOU KNOW WHO THESE NEW ENEMIES MIGHT BE?

THE PEACH LEAF RIVER THEY ARE CAMPED NEAR IS TOXIC TO FOREIGNERS, BUT THE WUGUOU PEOPLE ARE IMMUNE TO ITS TOXICITY. WE WILL HAVE WATER SHORTAGES AGAIN IF WE TRY TO HOLD OUR GROUND HERE.

HM...

THEIR RATTAN ARMOUR IS MADE FROM SOAKING RATTAN IN OIL FOR HALF A YEAR, THEN DRYING IT UNDER THE SUN. THIS PROCESS IS REPEATED MANY TIMES OVER UNTIL THE MATERIAL IS STRONG ENOUGH TO ENTIRELY STOP ALL ARROWS AND BLADES.

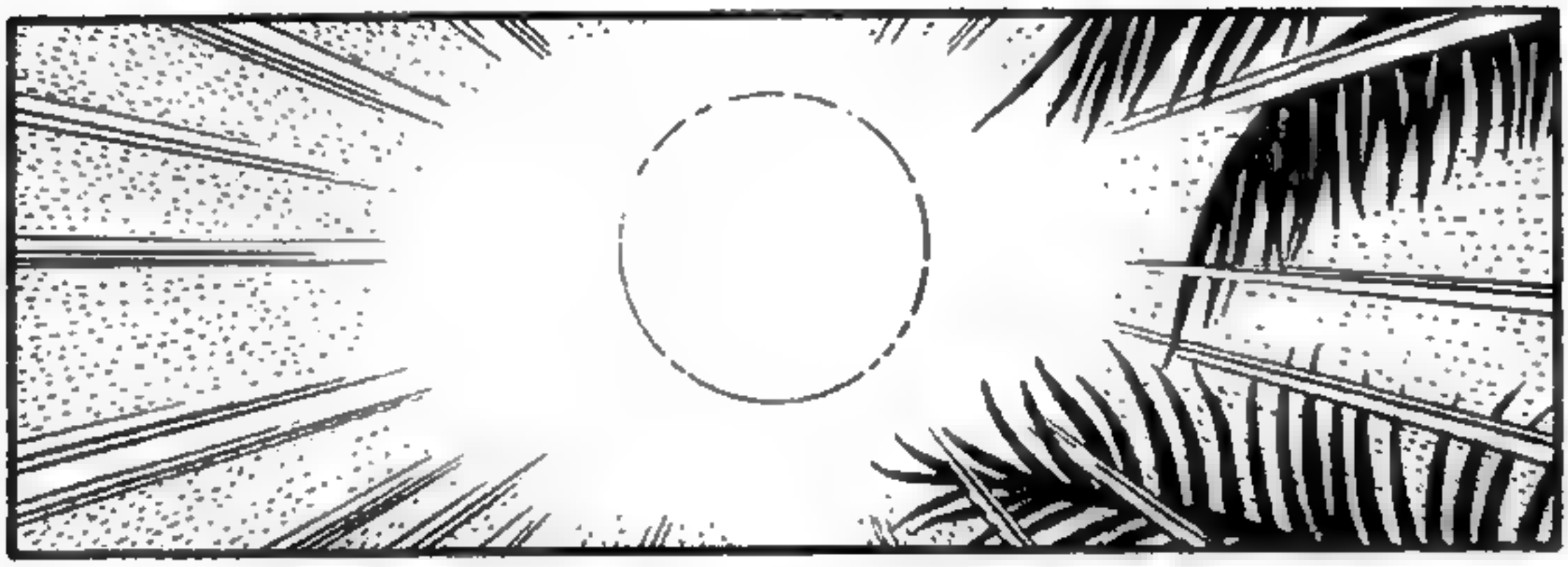
CHANCELLOR, PERHAPS WE HAVE VENTURED SOUTHWARDS FAR ENOUGH. WOULD IT NOT BE WISE TO RETREAT NOW BEFORE TAKING FURTHER CASUALTIES?

THERE IS NO GREATER CRIME THAN TO START A MISSION AND LEAVE IT INCOMPLETE.

WE CAME HERE TO SPREAD PROPER GOVERNENCE AND PACIFY THESE SOUTHERN REGIONS FOR GOOD, NOT FOR A FLEETING MOMENT. DO YOU WANT ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN COMING THIS FAR TO HAVE BEEN IN VAIN?

THINK OF HOW MANY SOLDIERS HAVE DIED ON THIS CAMPAIGN... RETREATING NOW IS TO RENDER ALL THEIR SACRIFICES AS MEANINGLESS.

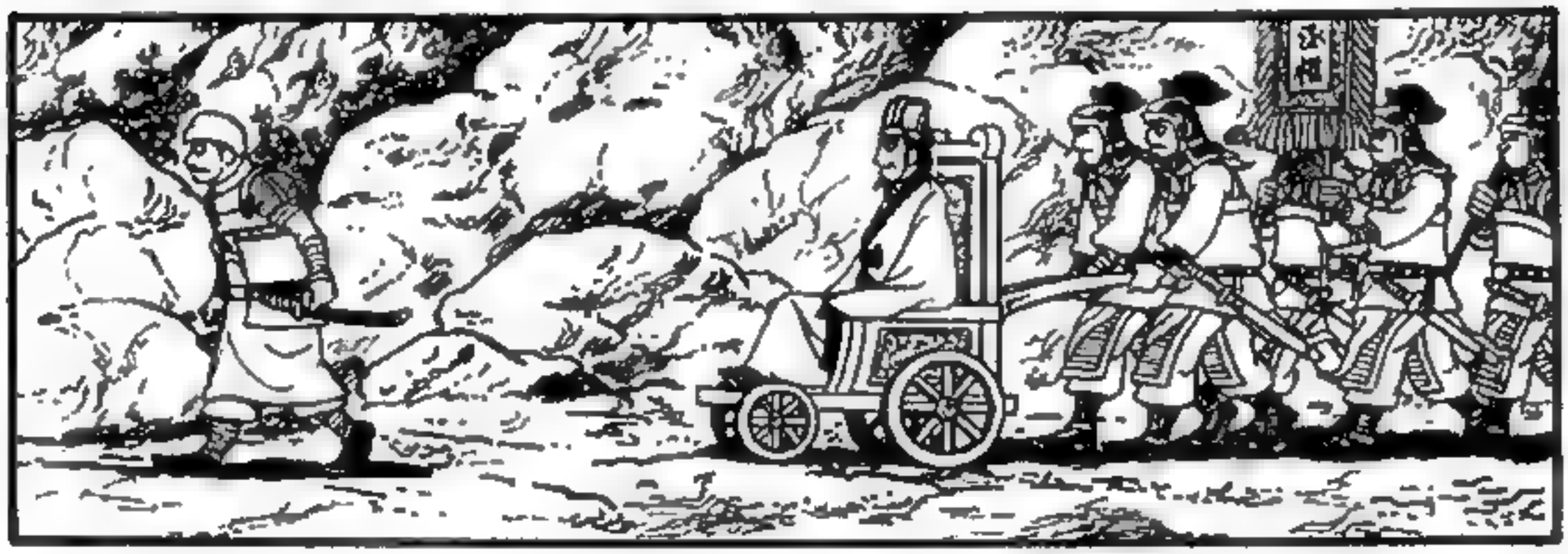
YES, SIR.
I WILL FORM AN IDEAL BATTLE STRATEGY AFTER THAT.
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND LOCALS WHO KNOW THE LAY OF THE LANDS AROUND HERE WELL.

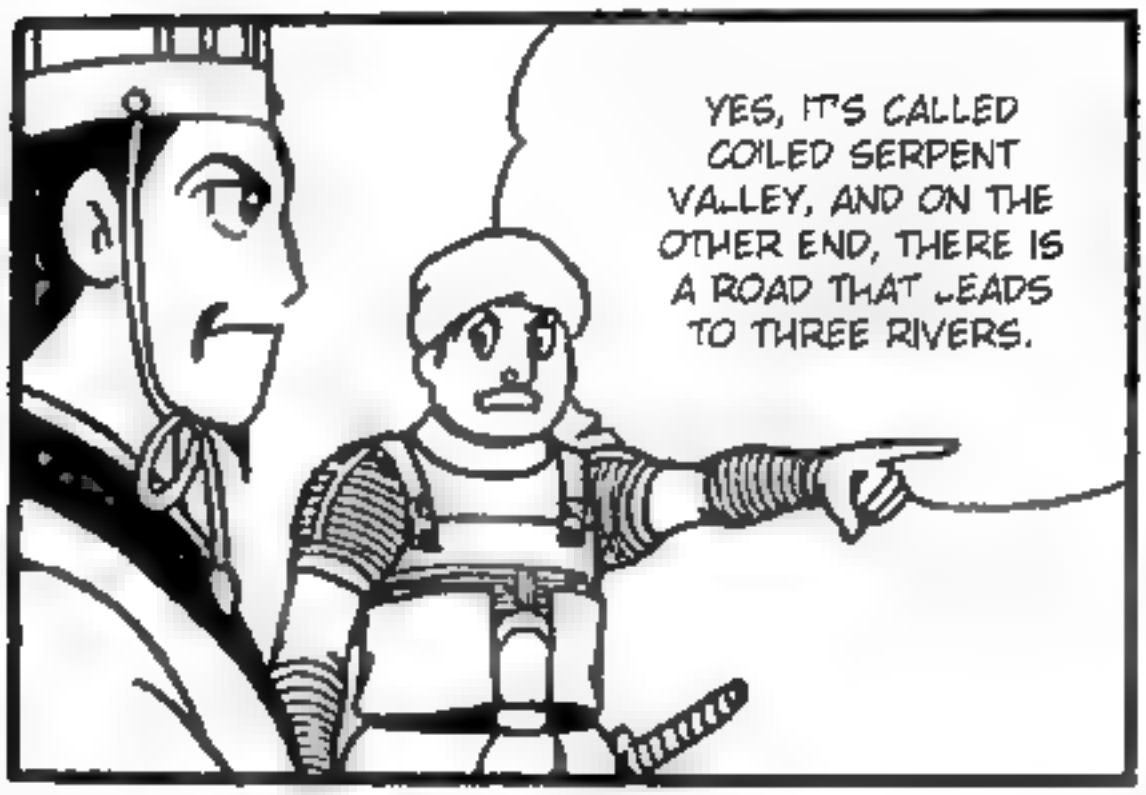


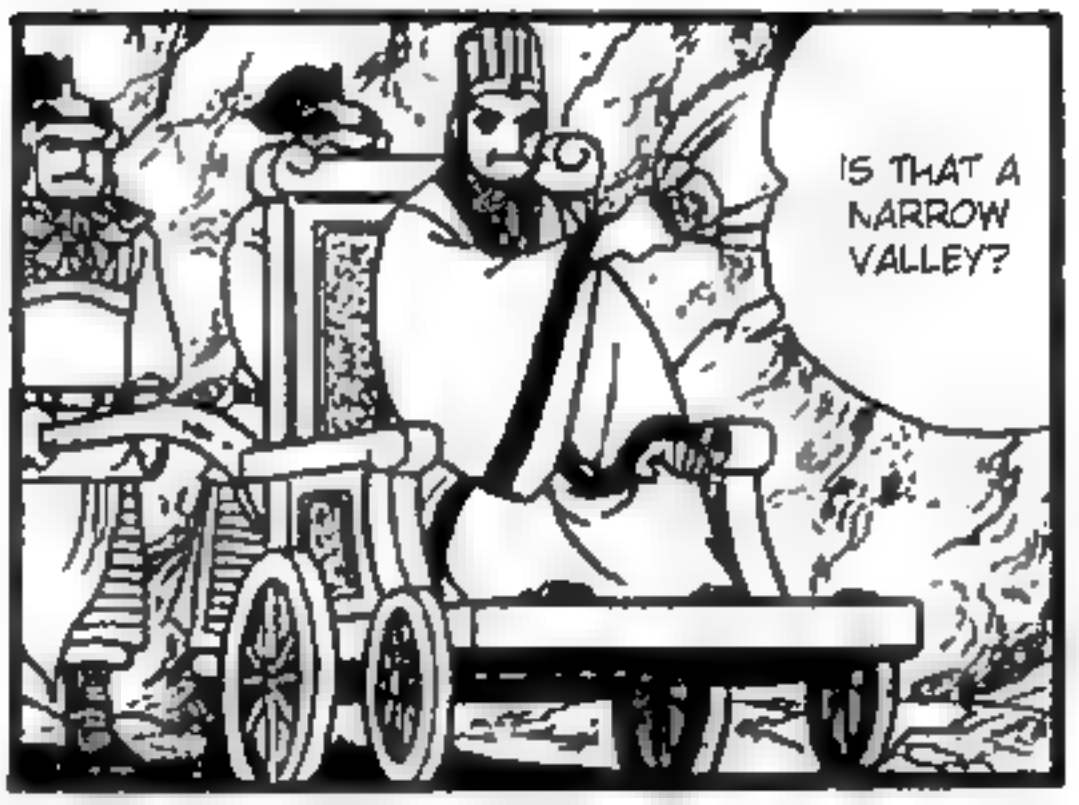
THEN PLEASE SHOW ME AROUND.

YES, SIR.
SO YOU KNOW THESE LANDS WELL?

GLADLY, SIR.




YES, IT'S CALLED COILED SERPENT VALLEY, AND ON THE OTHER END, THERE IS A ROAD THAT LEADS TO THREE RIVERS.

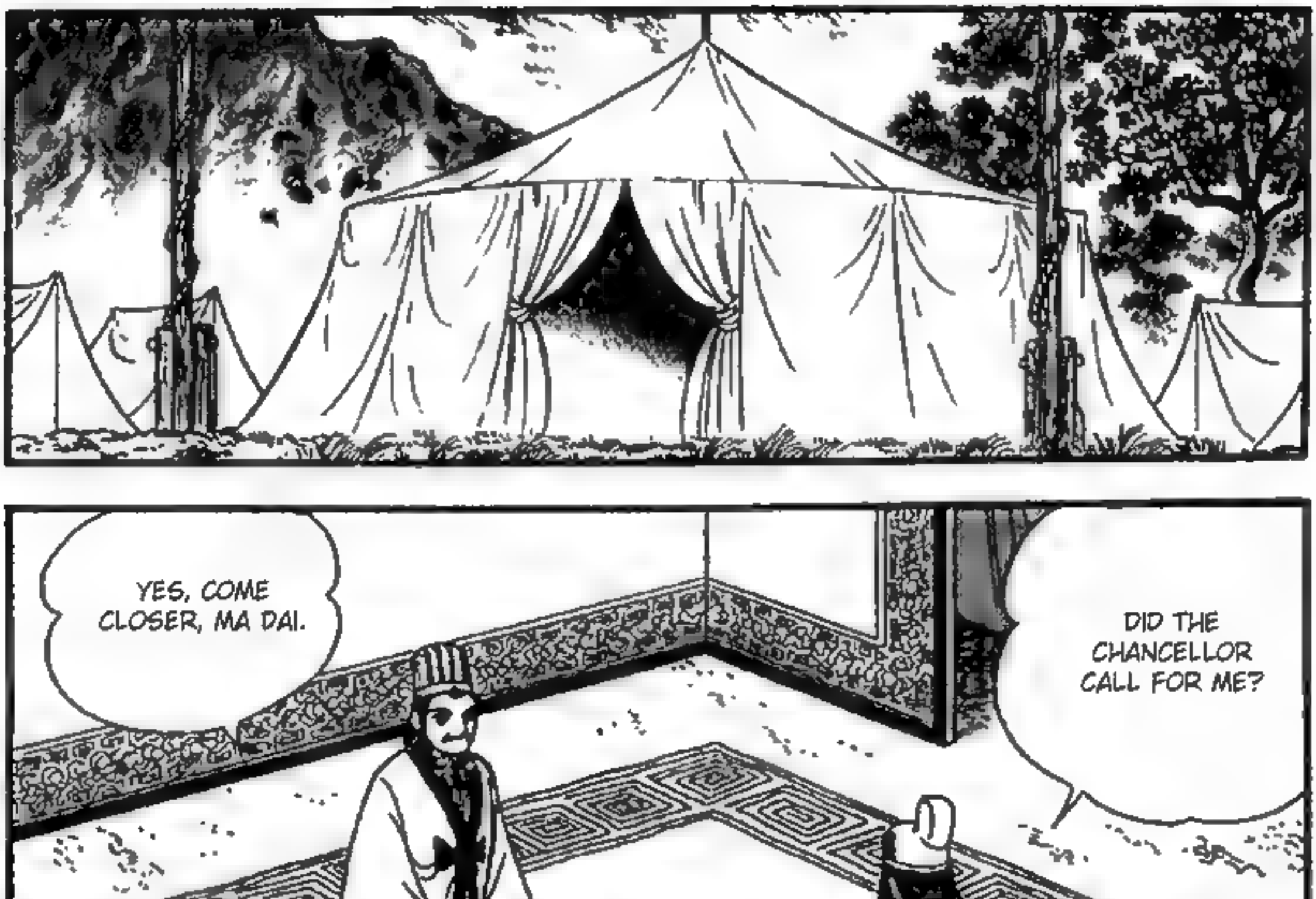

IS THAT A NARROW VALLEY?

THE METHOD IS RATHER CRUEL, BUT I SUPPOSE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY

IF I CAN JUST LURE THEM HERE, I CAN END THIS WAR.

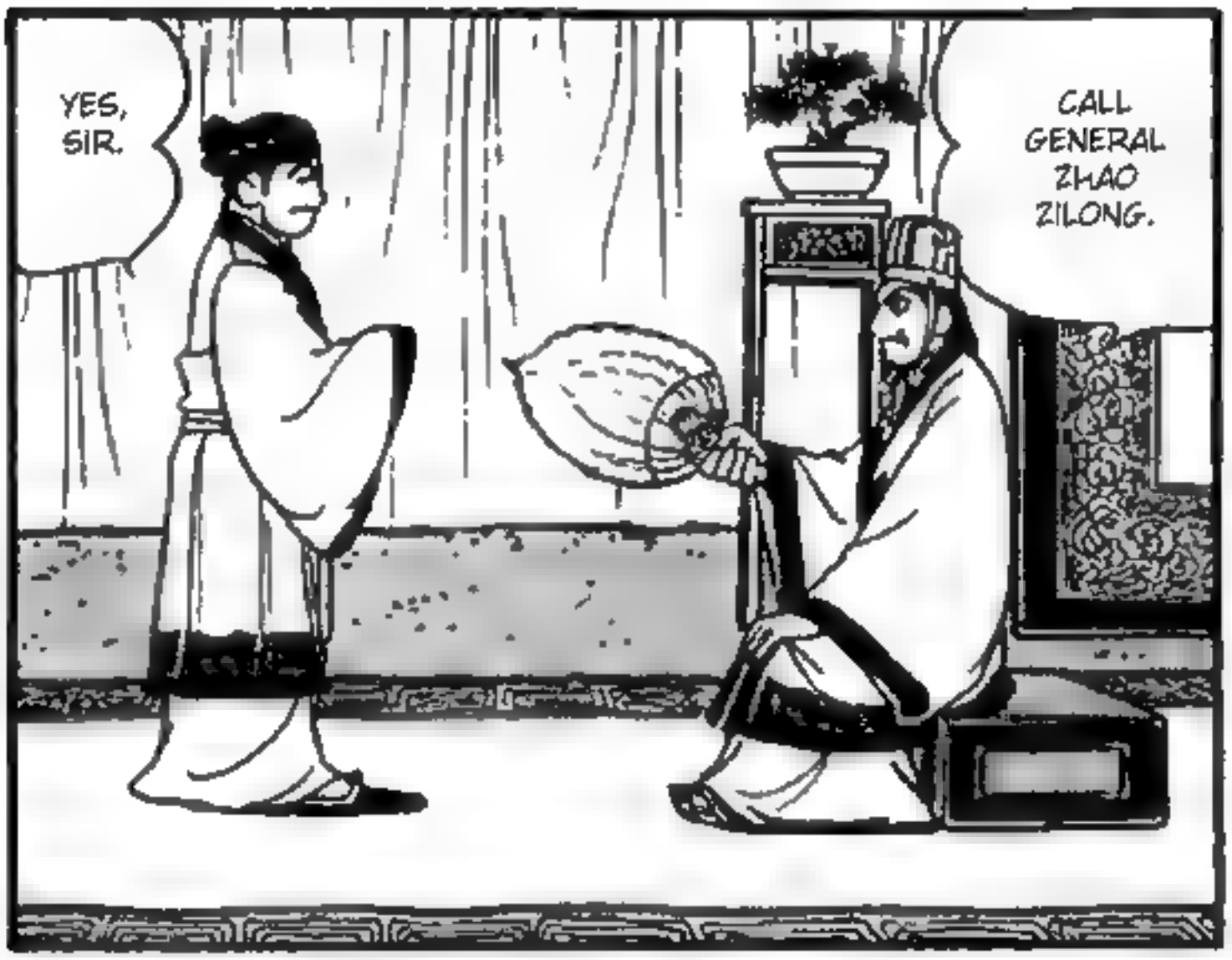
IT CONNECTS TO THREE RIVERS?

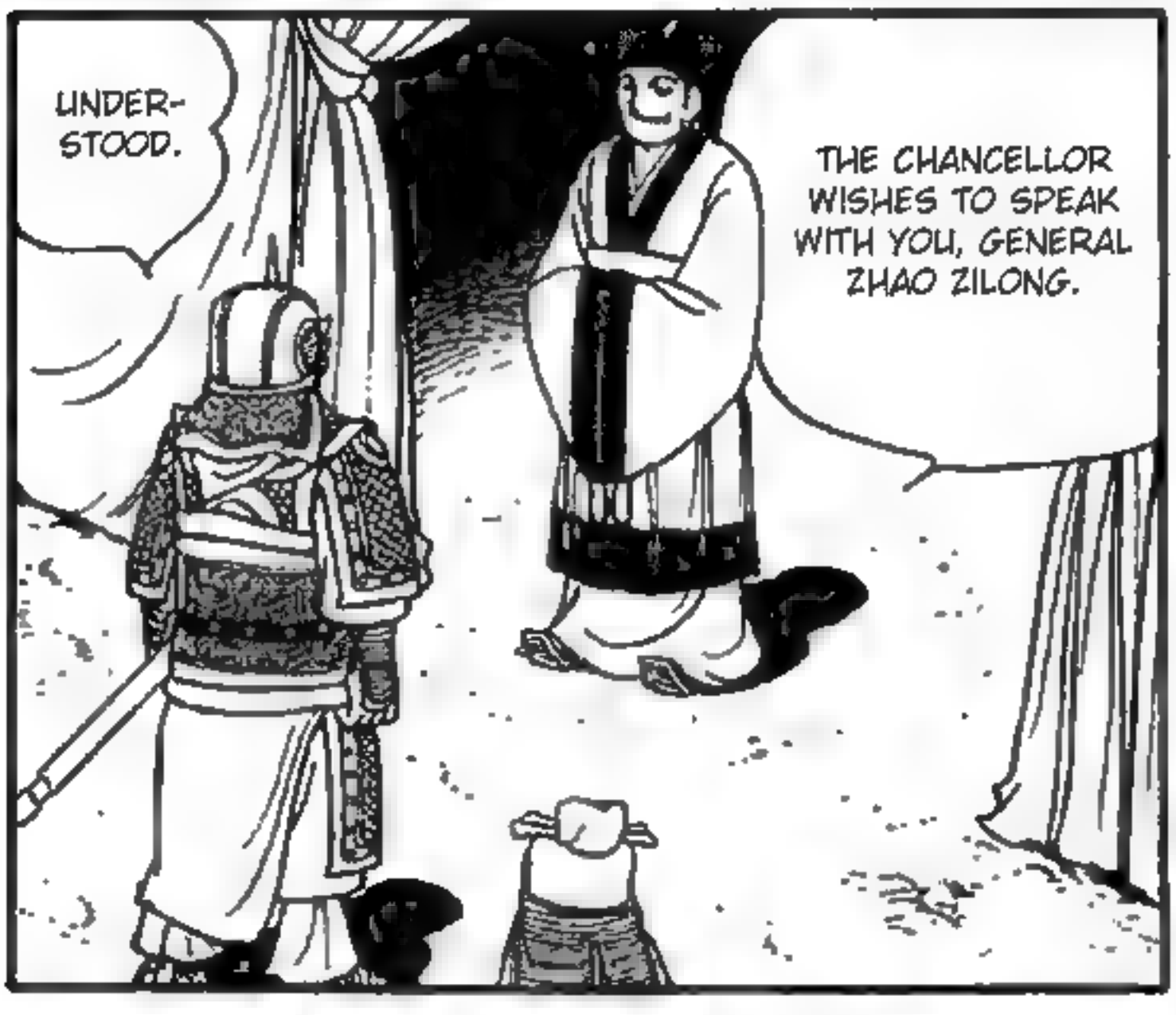
LET US RETURN TO CAMP.

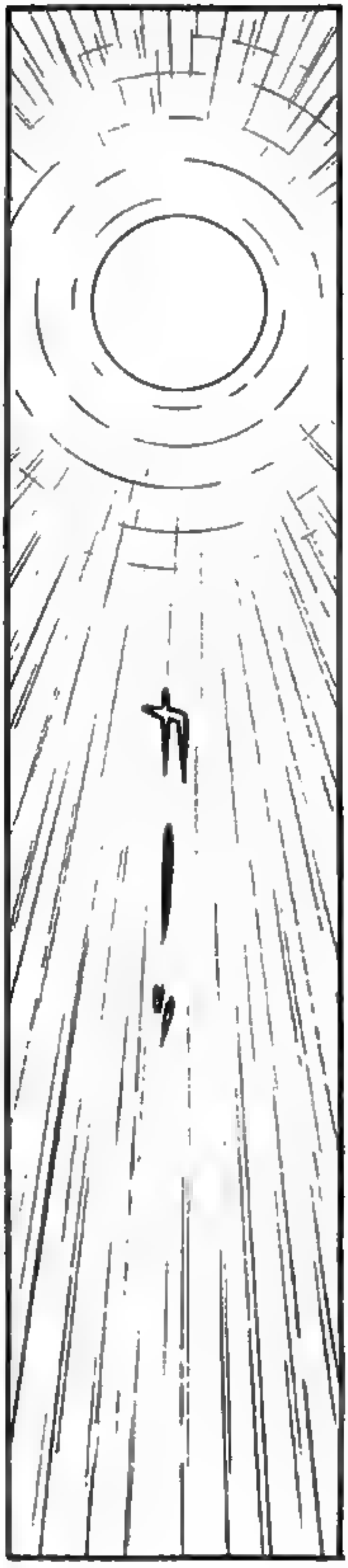

YES, COME CLOSER, MA DAI.
DID THE CHANCELLOR CALL FOR ME?

YES, SIR.
YOU REMEMBER THERE WERE BLACK BOXES NEXT TO THE ONES WITH THE WOODEN BEASTS STORED INSIDE, DO YOU NOT?

THERE, YOU WILL...
WHISPER WHISPER
TAKE THOSE BOXES ALONG WITH BAMBOO POLES AND TREE BRANCHES TO COILED SERPENT VALEY.
YES, SIR.
IF KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR ACTIONS IS LEAKED TO THE ENEMIES, I WILL PUNISH YOU TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW SO BE CAUTIOUS.
THAT NIGHT, MA DAI AND HIS TROOPS LEFT SECRETLY WITH THE MYSTERI OUS BLACK BOXES.


YES, SIR.
CALL GENERAL ZHAO ZILONG.


UNDER-STOOD.
THE CHANCELLOR WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU, GENERAL ZHAO ZILONG.



THE EXACT PLACE AND THE MATERIAL WITH WHICH YOU WILL BLOCK OFF THE ROAD IS...
WHISPER WHISPER

I WANT YOU TO GO THROUGH THE COILED SERPENT VALLEY AND BLOCK OFF THE ROAD TO THREE RIVERS.

CALL WEI YAN NEXT.

YES, OF COURSE.

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION.

YES.

IT IS YOUR TURN, GENERAL WEI YAN.

YES, SIR.

WEI YAN, TAKE AS MANY TROOPS AS YOU WISH AND MAKE CAMP ALONG THE PEACH LEAF RIVER, FACING THE ENEMY CAMPS.

?

HOLD IT, WEI YAN.

THEY MAY HAVE TAKEN ME BY SURPRISE THE FIRST TIME, BUT THEY WILL NOT DO SO A SECOND TIME.

YOU WANT ME TO RUN AWAY!?

I AM NOT ORDERING YOU TO FIGHT THE ENEMIES. I WANT YOU TO ABANDON YOUR CAMP AND RETREAT TO A PLACE MARKED WITH A WHITE FLAG, WHENEVER THE ENEMIES COME FORWARD.

IS THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE OVERLY CONCERNED THAT THEY BEAT ME THE FIRST TIME?

TURNING MY BACK TO THE ENEMIES!?

PRECISELY.

IN ABOUT HALF A MONTH FROM NOW, YOU SHOULD BE DEFEATED 15 TIMES AND ABANDONED 7 CAMPS.

NO, NO, IT IS ALL FOR A GRAND PLAN.

IF YOU WIN EVEN ONCE, DO NOT DARE TO SHOW YOUR FACE BEFORE ME AGAIN.

UNDER-
STOOD.

COME
INSIDE FOR
YOUR
ORDERS,
SIRS.

CALL
ZHANG NI AND
MA ZHONG.

YES.

COME
CLOSER,
MEN.

TAKE THE NANMAN AUXILLARIES AND...

WHISPER WHISPER

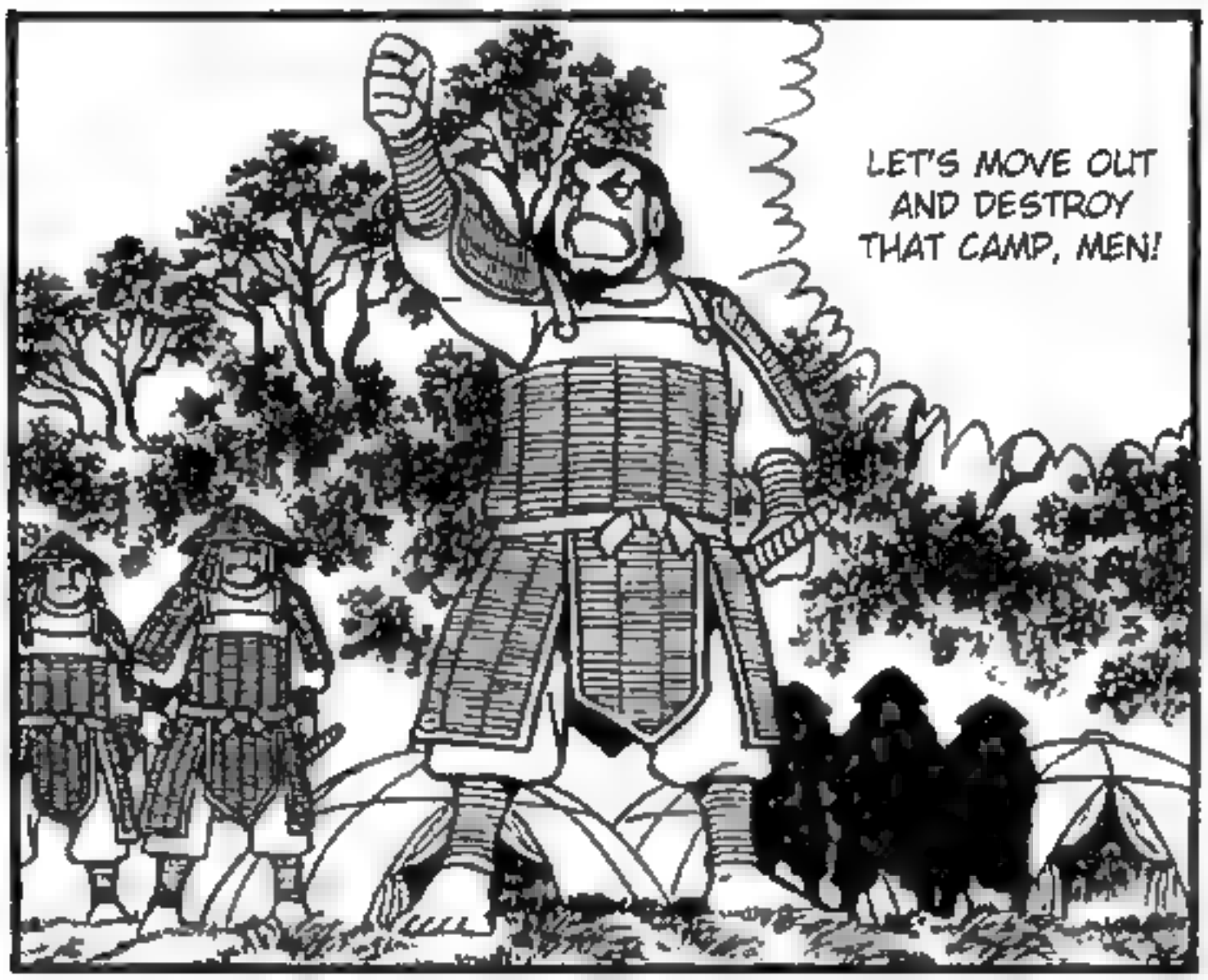
YES, SIR.

IS THAT CLEAR?

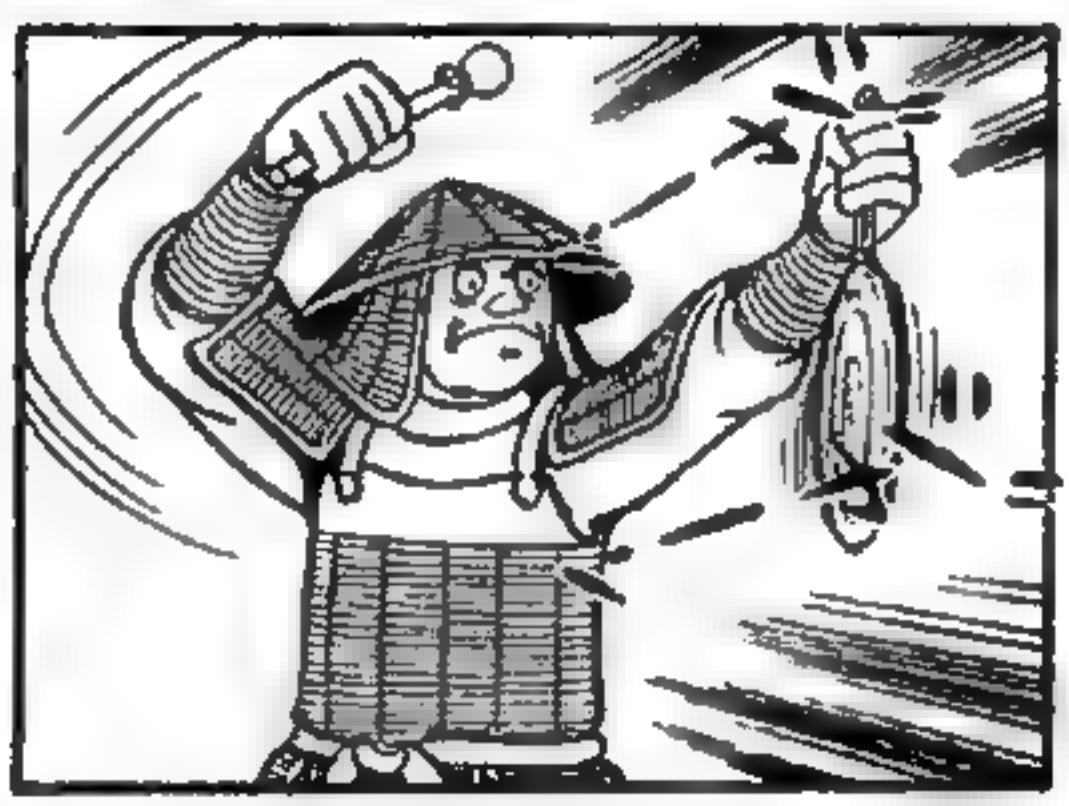
AND WITH THAT, THESE SOUTHERN LANDS SHOULD BE PACIFIED...

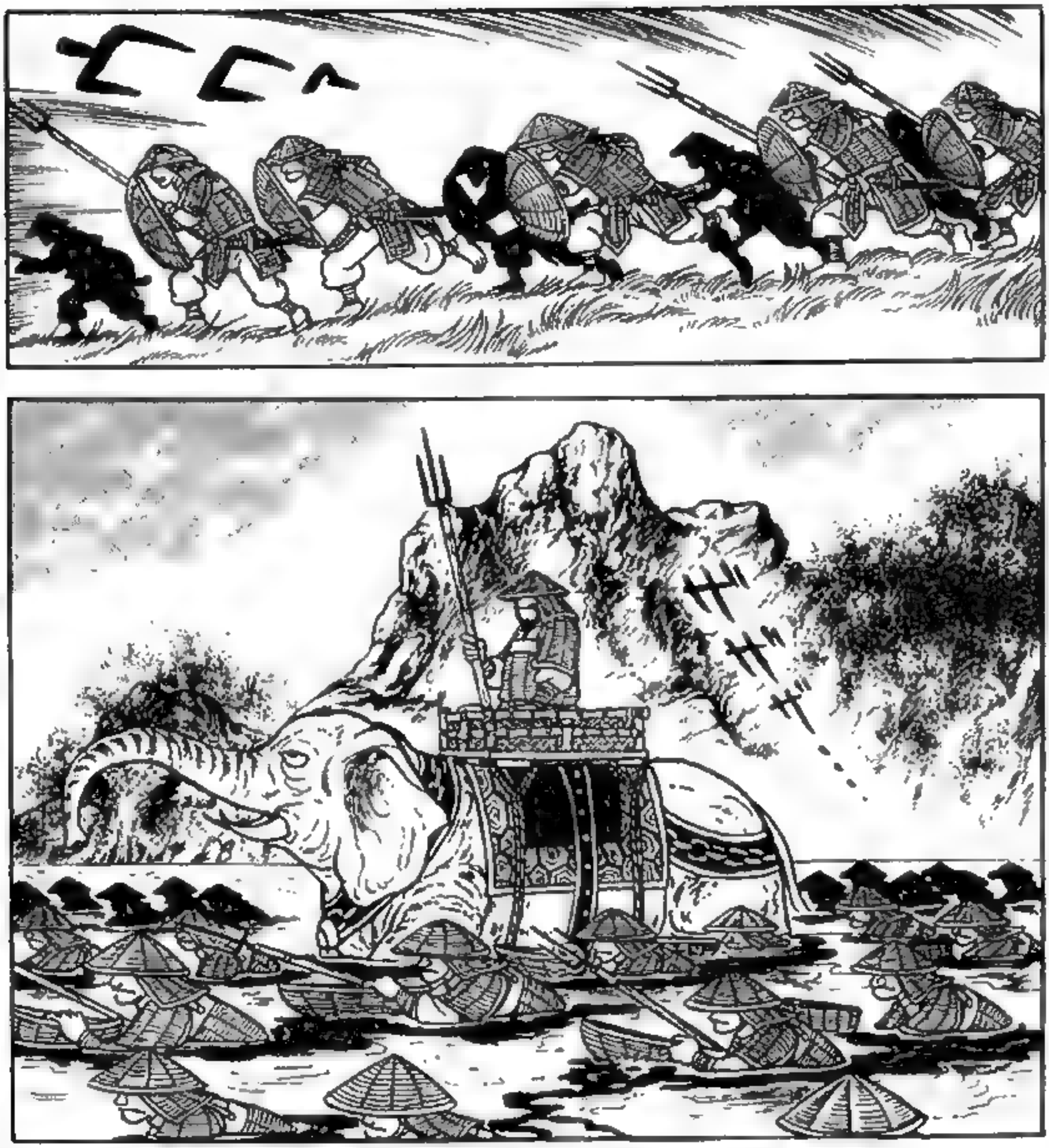
FIFTEEN RETREATS

HM...


LET'S MOVE OUT AND DESTROY THAT CAMP, MEN!

IT'LL BE ANNOYING IF THEY SET UP A FORTIFIED POSITION THERE.





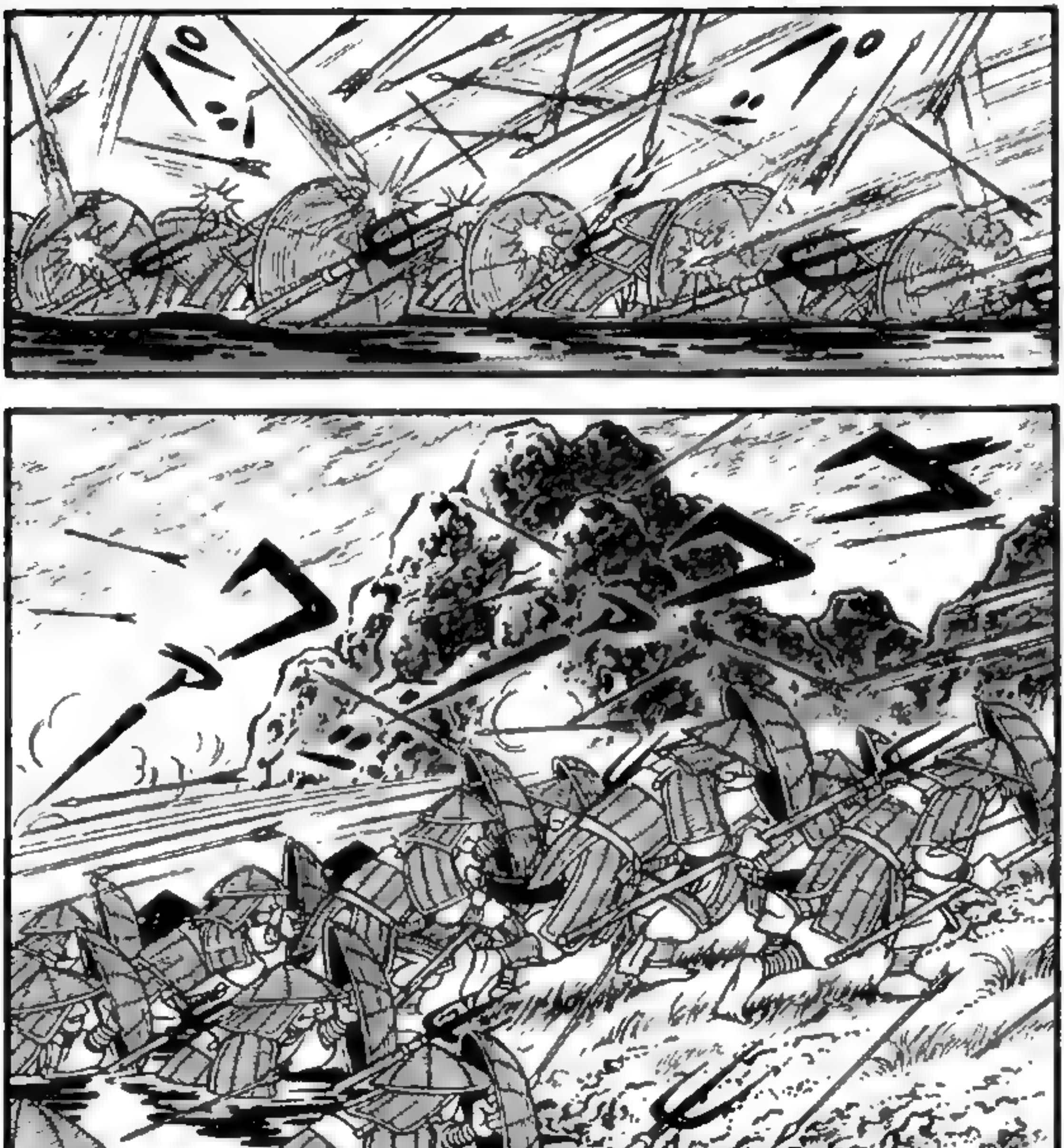
THE ENEMIES ARE APPROACHING!

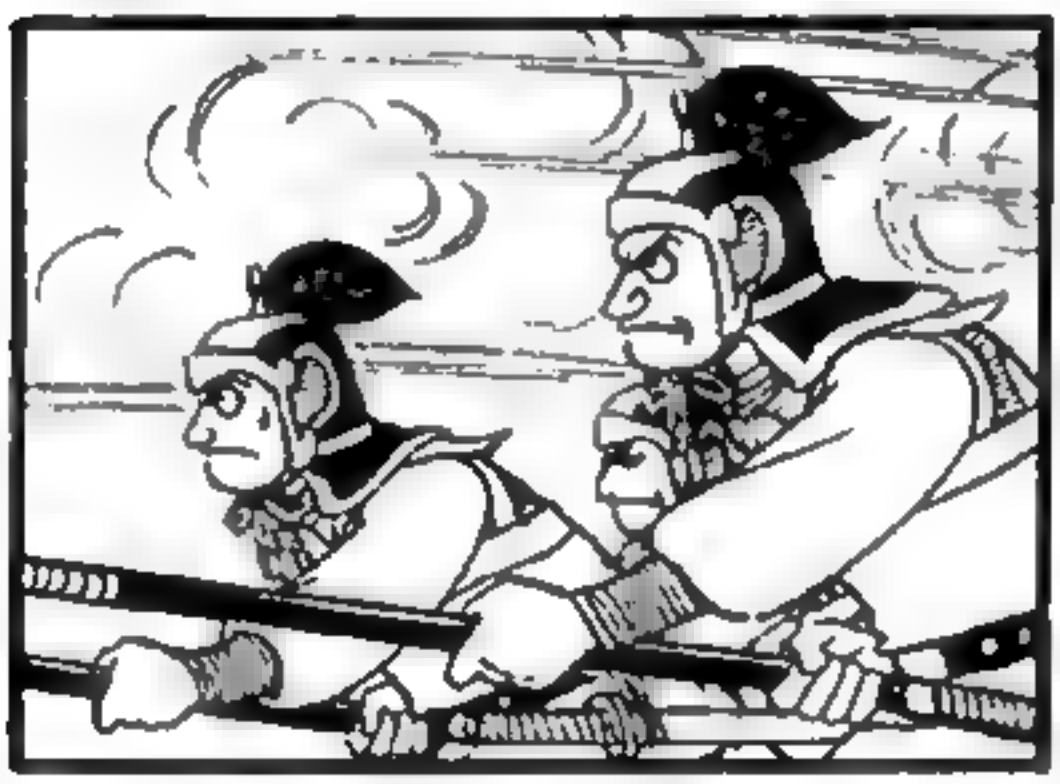
YES, SIR.

DO NOT OVEREXERT YOURSELVES! WE WILL WITHDRAW TO THE NEXT POINT AFTER PUTTING UP SOME RESISTANCE!

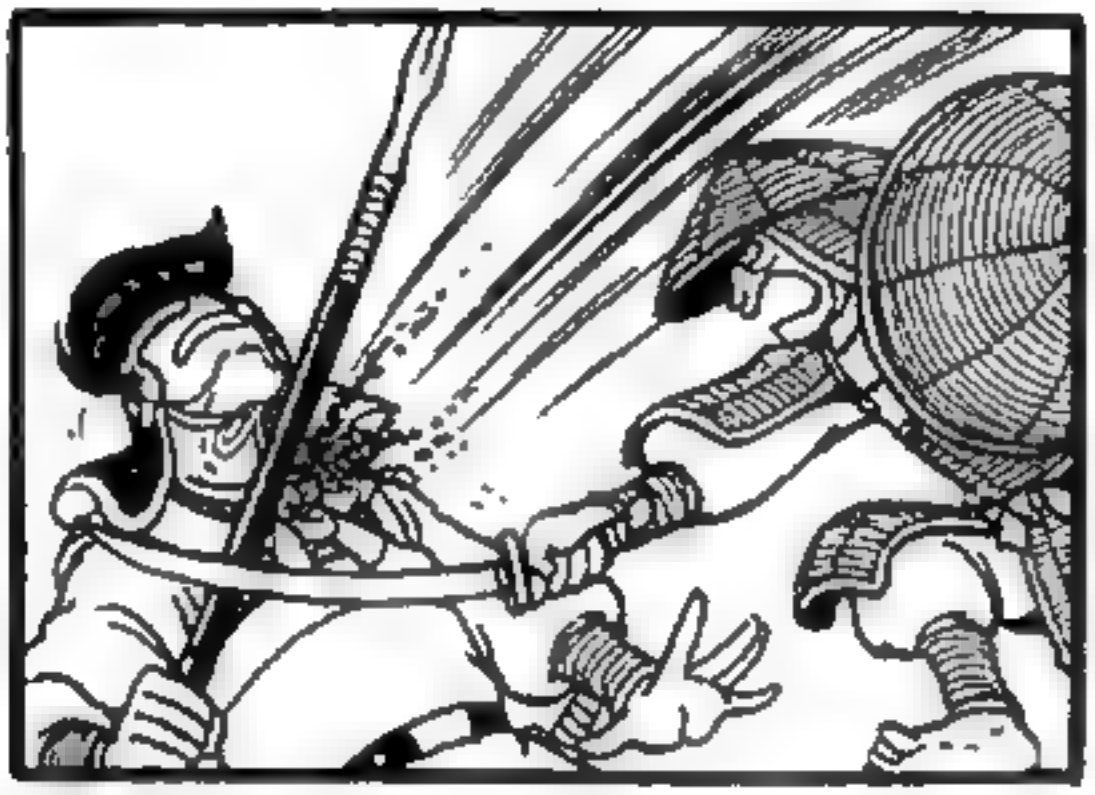
MN...

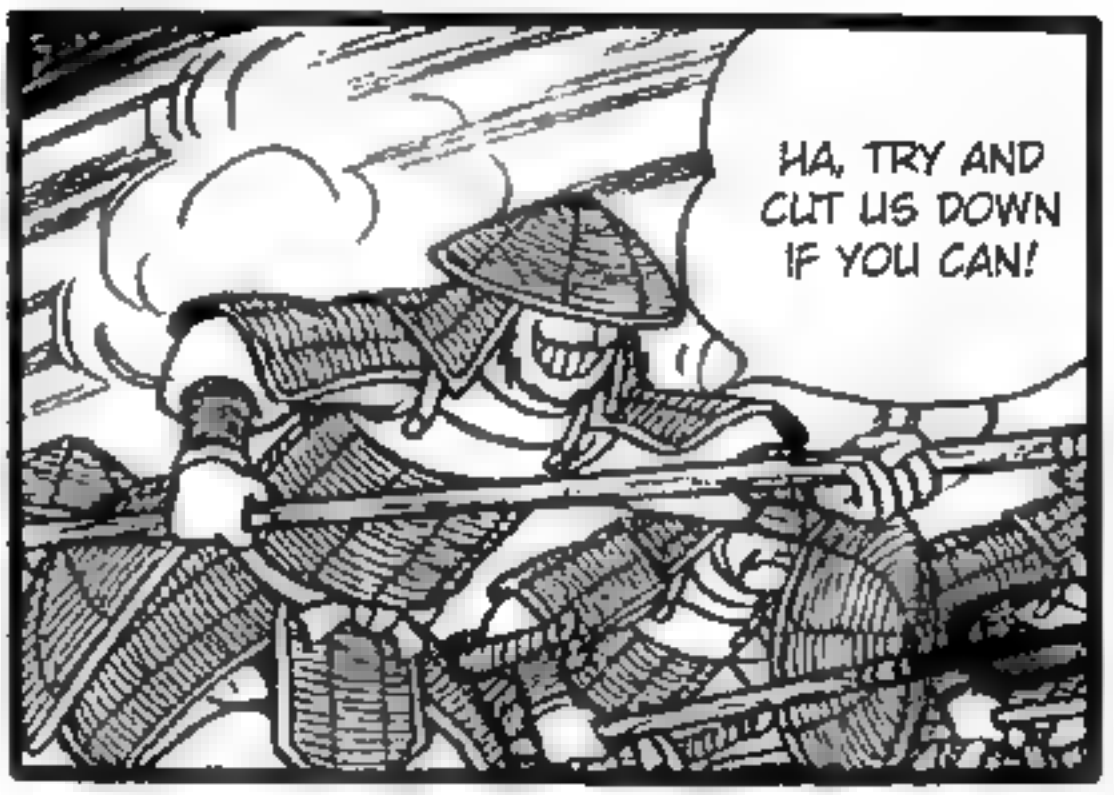
SHOOT!





CHARGE!




HA, TRY AND CUT US DOWN IF YOU CAN!

RETREAT!

IT'S THE SIGNAL!

THEY'RE FLEEING! GIVE THEM CHASE!

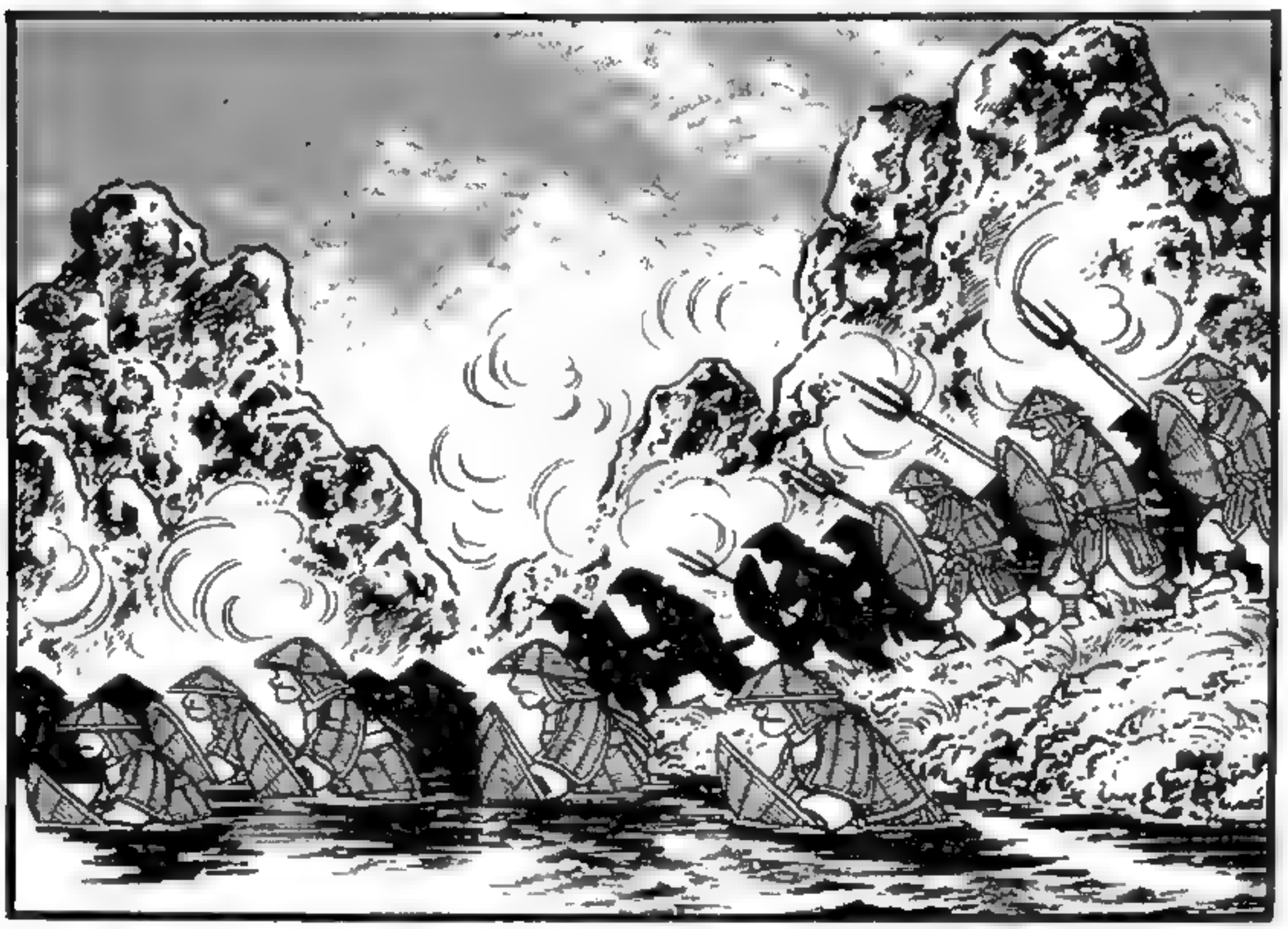
WHAT IS IT, MENG HUO?

KING WUTU GU!

HMM, YOU HAVE A POINT.

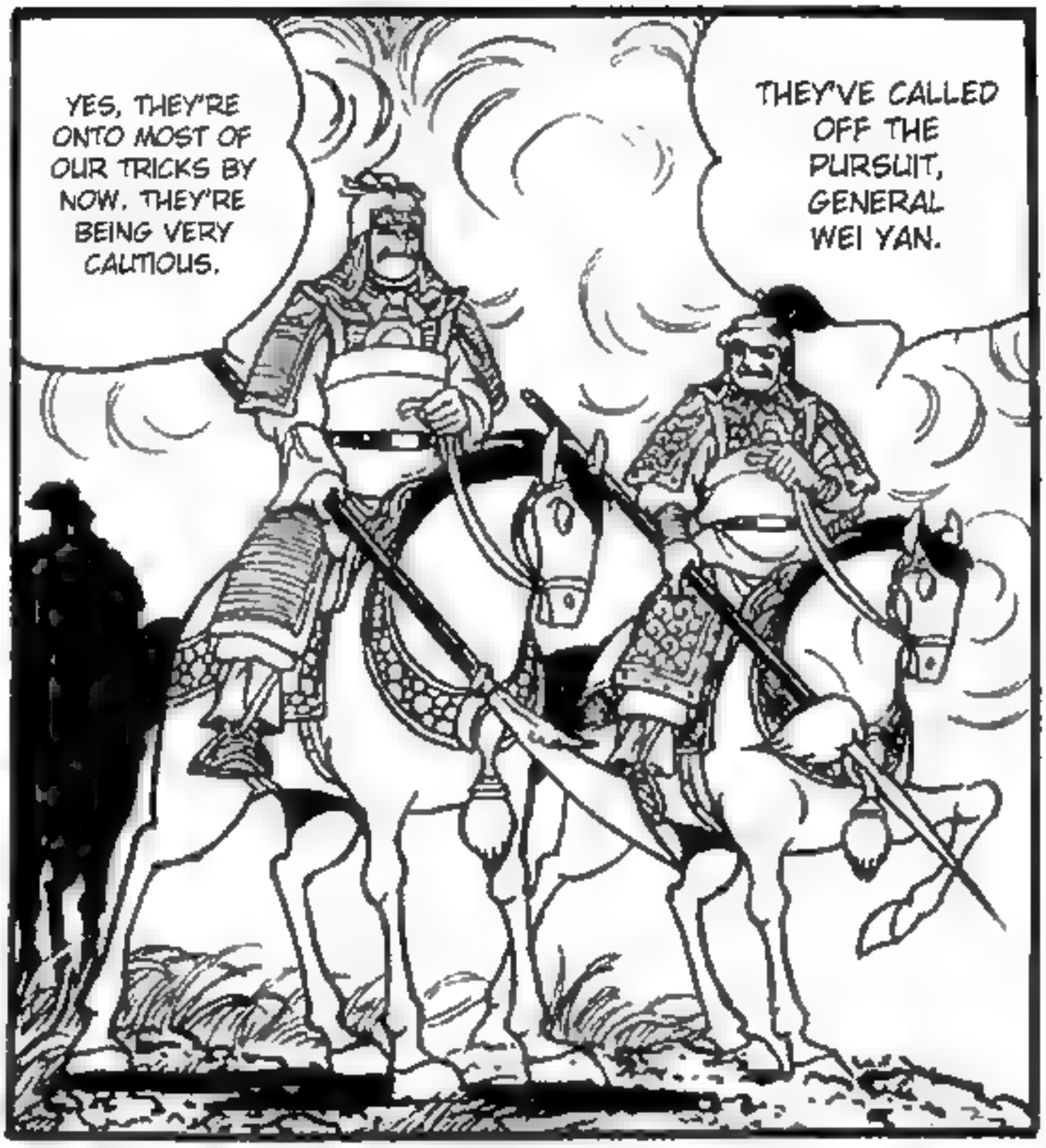
KONGMING IS AN EXCEEDINGLY CUNNING FELLOW. I ADVISE AGAINST PURSUING THE RETREATING ENEMIES TOO FAR.

ALRIGHT, CALL THE MEN BACK!



ALRIGHT, LET'S TRY SETTING UP CAMP AGAIN CLOSE TO THE RIVER.

YES, SIR.


YES, THEY'RE ONTO MOST OF OUR TRICKS BY NOW. THEY'RE BEING VERY CAUTIOUS.
THEY'VE CALLED OFF THE PURSUIT, GENERAL WEI YAN.

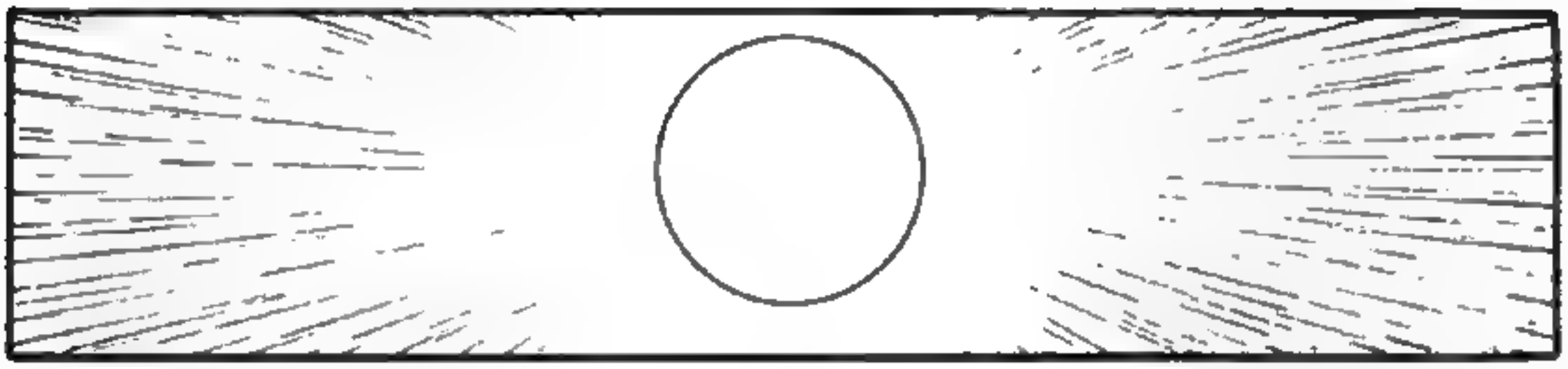
BRING OUT THE BOOZE! TIME TO CELEBRATE THE DAY'S VICTORY!

AGHH, WE'LL JUST CRUSH THEM AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING.

THE ENEMIES ARE SETTING UP CAMP AGAIN BY THE RIVER, SIRE!

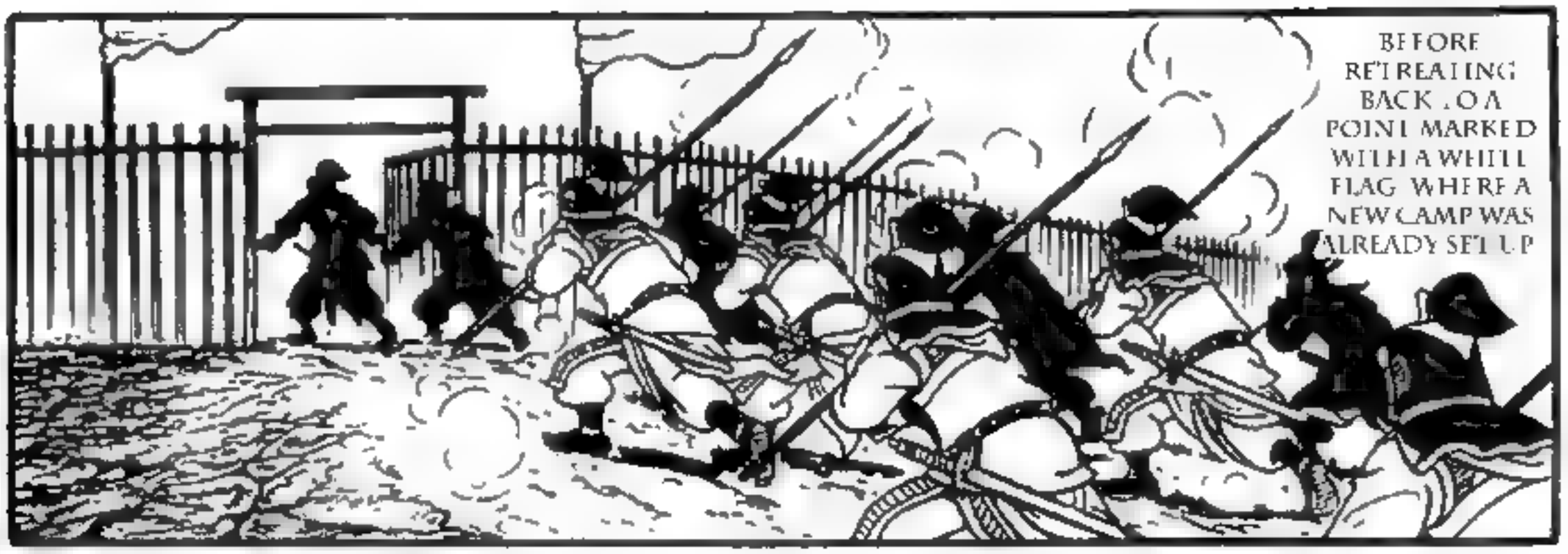
YES, YOUR RATTAN TROOPS ARE INDEED FEARSOME, BUT I STILL RECOMMEND CAUTION JUST IN CASE.

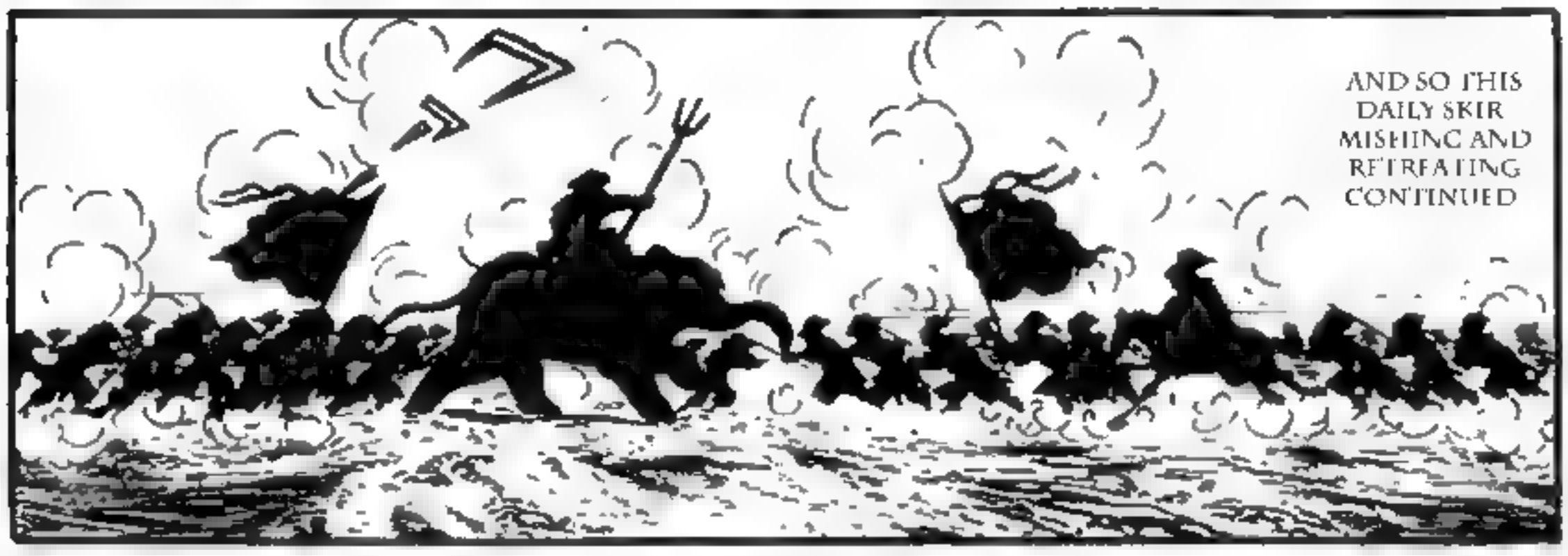
HAHAHA. JUST YOU WAIT, MENG HUO, I'LL DRIVE THESE FOREIGNERS ALL THE WAY BACK TO THEIR HOMES IN NO TIME!

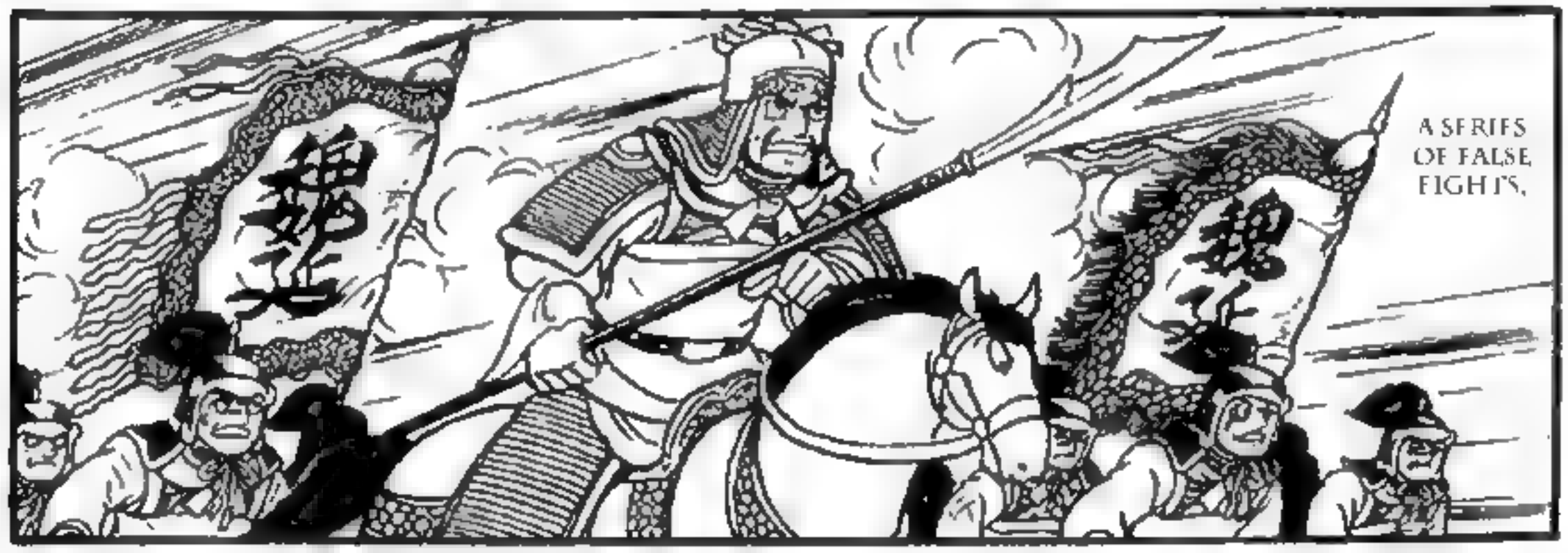


THE NEXT DAY, THE WUGUO ARMY ATTACKED THE SHU CAMPS AGAIN

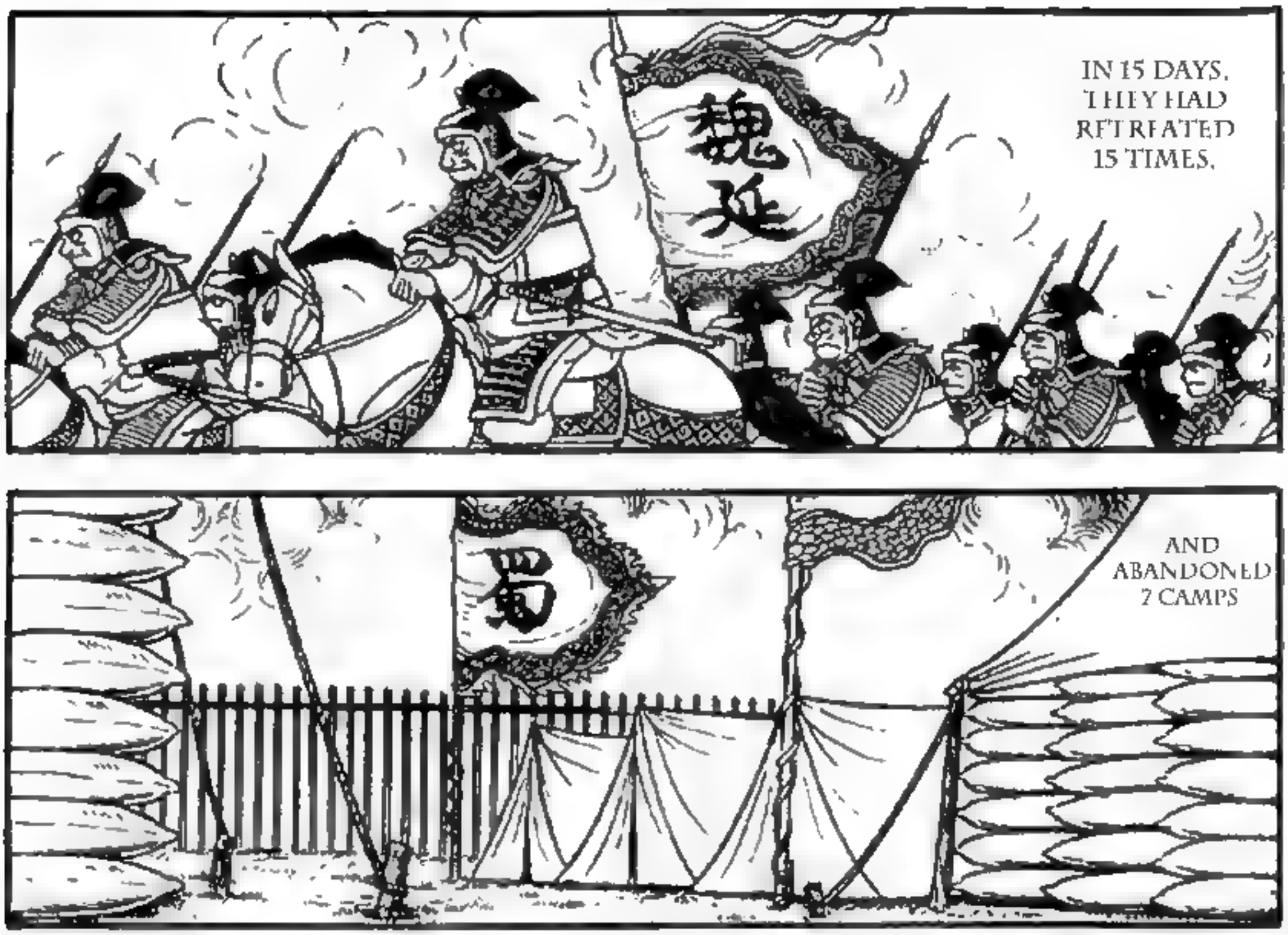
THE SHU SOLDIERS PUT UP A BRAVE FIGHT.


BEFORE RETREATING BACK TO A POINT MARKED WITH A WHITE FLAG WHERE A NEW CAMP WAS ALREADY SET UP


AND SO THIS DAILY SKIRMISHING AND RETREATING CONTINUED


A SERIES OF FALSE FIGHTS,

AND CONTINUOUS RETREATS


魏延
IN 15 DAYS,
THEY HAD
RETREATED
15 TIMES,
AND
ABANDONED
7 CAMPS
THE WUGUO
ARMY FELT
INVINCIBLE AT
THEIR
UNBROKEN
STRING OF
VICTORIES

DRINK! DRINK! WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF FOOD AND WINE CAPTURED FROM THE ENEMY CAMPS!

A MAN'S GOTTA DRINK AT LEAST THIS MUCH.

WHAT, THAT TINY THING?

PLEASE ACCEPT A DRINK FROM ME, SIRE.

THAT'S OUR KING FOR YA!

AHHH!

ゴロゴロ

ドキ

WITH OUR RATTAN ARMOUR, WE ARE INVINCIBLE!

AHH...

15 BATTLES, 15 VICTORIES, AND 7 CAPTURED CAMPS! THE ENEMIES HAVE RETREATED 300 LI FROM THE POSITION THEY INITIALLY HAD NEAR THE PEACH LEAF RIVER!

YES, VERY IMPRESSIVE.

DID YOU SEE HOW HIGH THE MORALE OF MY TROOPS ARE?

YES, I'M SURE IT IS.

EVEN KONGMING'S WIT MUST BE FUTILE BEFORE MY ARMY.

WHAT'S WRONG? HOW CAN YOU HAVE NO APPETITE BEFORE THIS GREAT DINNER?

WON'T BE LONG UNTIL I REACH THEIR MAIN CAMPS AND TAKE KONGMING'S HEAD.

AH YES, THE MONKEY BRAIN IS ESPECIALLY EXQUISITE!
N-NO, I AM JUST TAKING THE TIME TO ENJOY THE EXQUISITE TASTE OF THESE DISHES.

HARDLY ANY HUMAN WOULD BE IMMUNE FROM BECOMING A LITTLE OVERCONFIDENT AFTER SUCH ENORMOUS SUCCESS

WHERE'D THE ENEMIES RUN OFF TO NOW?

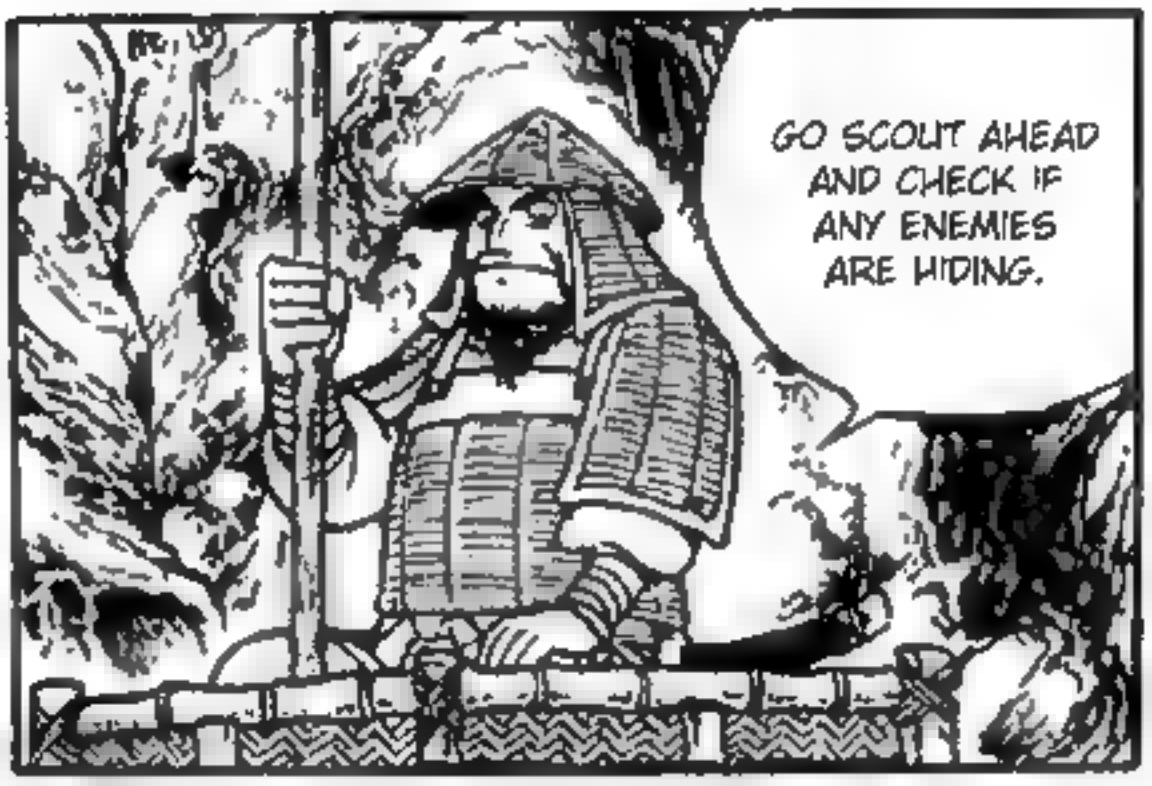
HM?

SEEMS LIKE AN IDEAL PLACE FOR AMBUSHES...

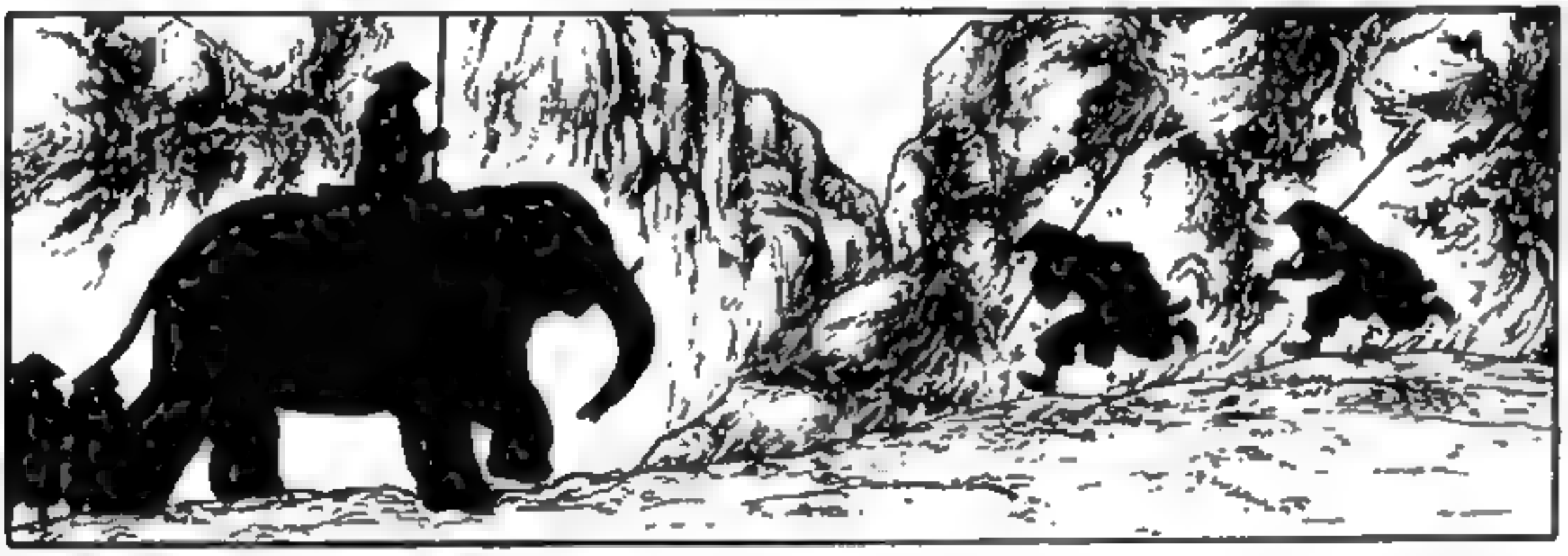
THIS IS COILED SERPENT VALLEY, SIRE.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

YES, SIRE.


GO SCOUT AHEAD AND CHECK IF ANY ENEMIES ARE HIDING.

HMPH, IF THE ENEMIES THINK THEY CAN BEAT US BY AMBUSH-ING US, THEY SHOULD THINK AGAIN!



YES, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?

REPORTING, SIRE!

WHAT KIND OF TRACES?

DUE TO THE LACK OF TALL GRASSES OR TREES, THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY PLACE TO HIDE TROOPS IN THIS NARROW VALLEY. MOREOVER, WE FOUND TRACES THAT THE ENEMIES FLED THROUGH THIS VALLEY.

OH?

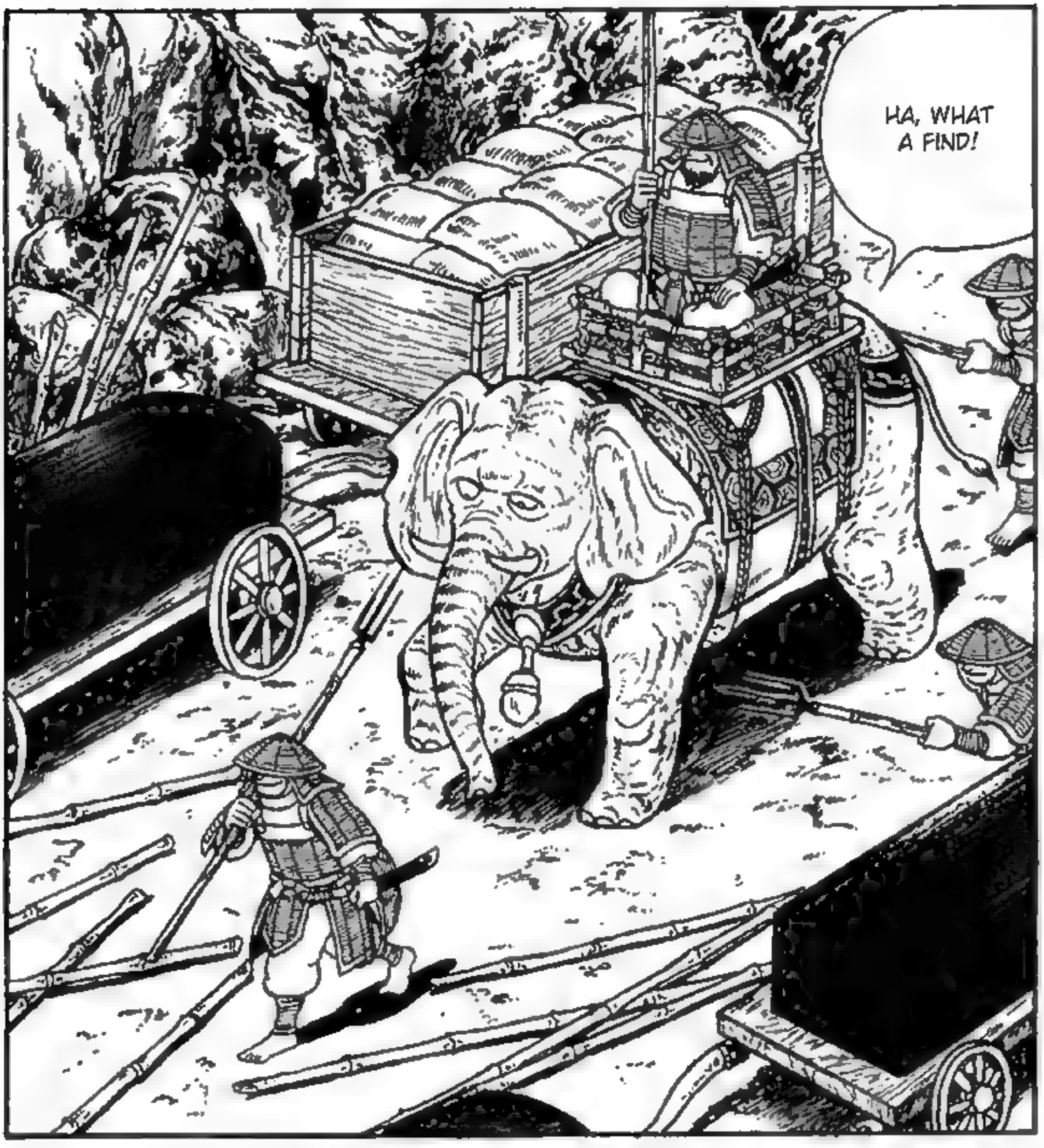
THERE WERE LARGE WAGONS AND CRATES LEFT BEHIND. ABANDONED SUPPLY WAGONS, MOST LIKELY, TO SPEED UP THEIR ESCAPE.

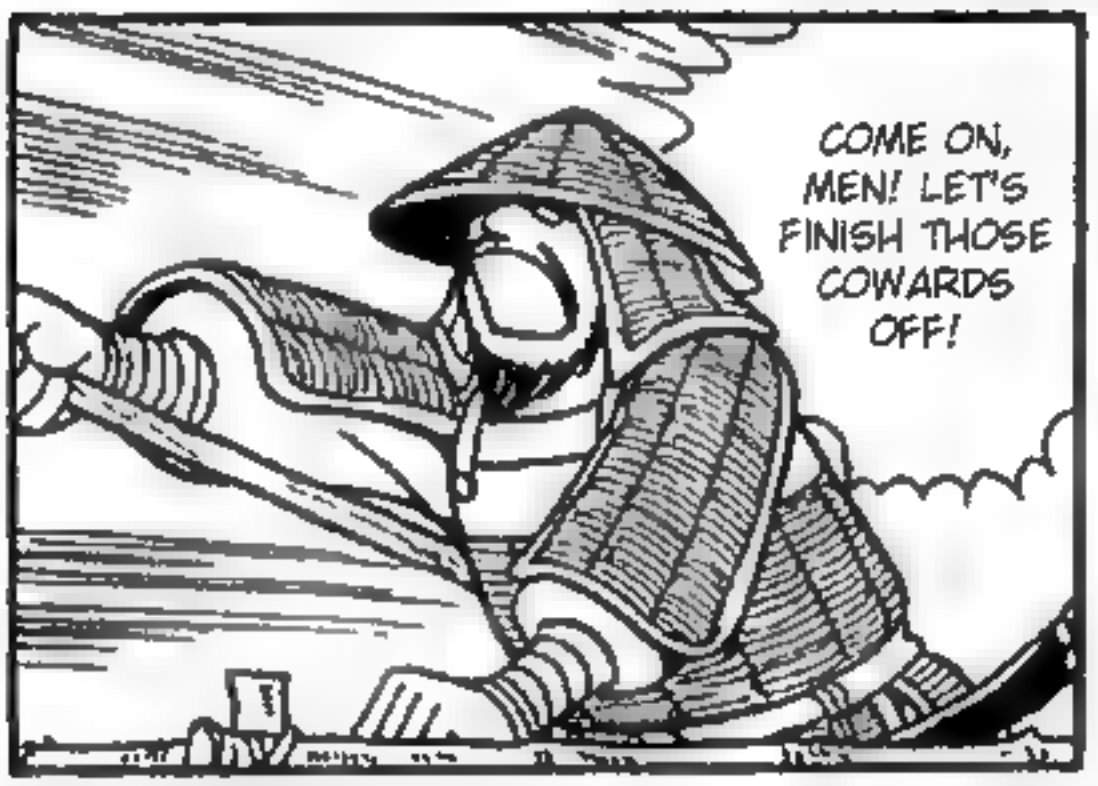
LEAD THE WAY THEN.

YES, SIR.

OHH!

OVER THERE, SIRE!


HA, WHAT A FIND!


COME ON, MEN! LET'S FINISH THOSE COWARDS OFF!

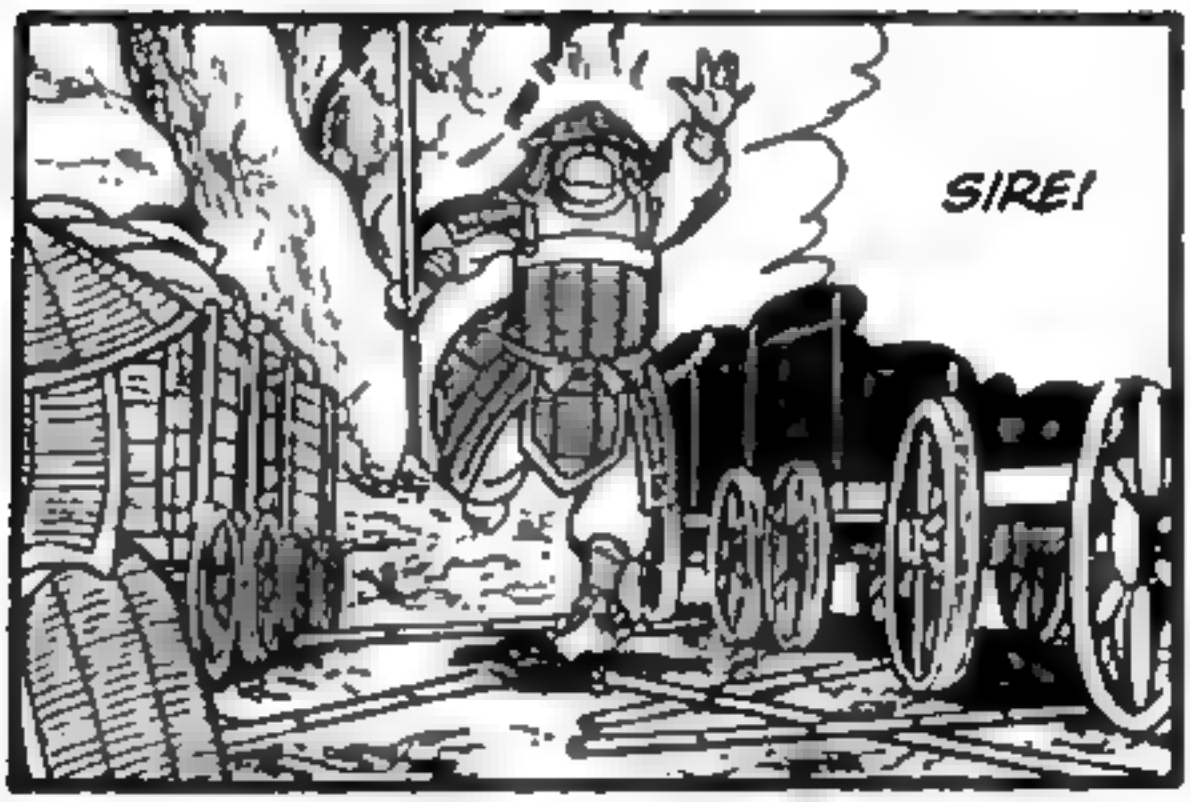
THE ENEMIES ARE NOW SO AFRAID OF US THAT THEY'RE THROWING AWAY THEIR SUPPLIES JUST SO THEY CAN RUN AWAY FASTER!

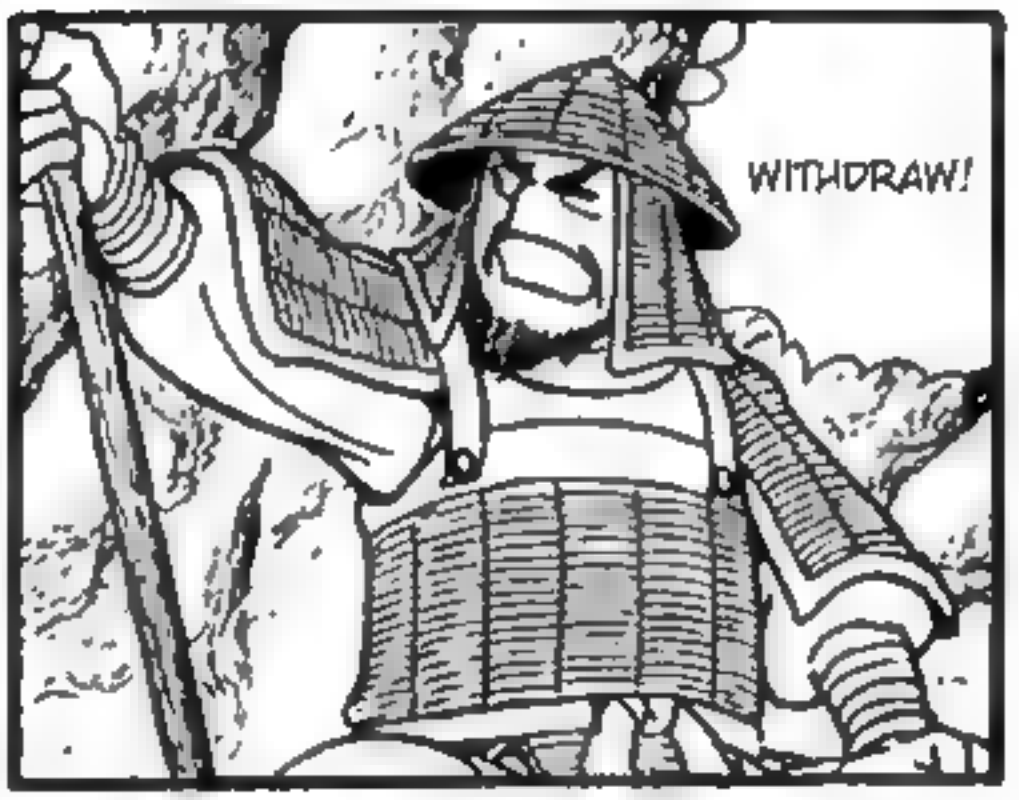
NOW!

AHH!

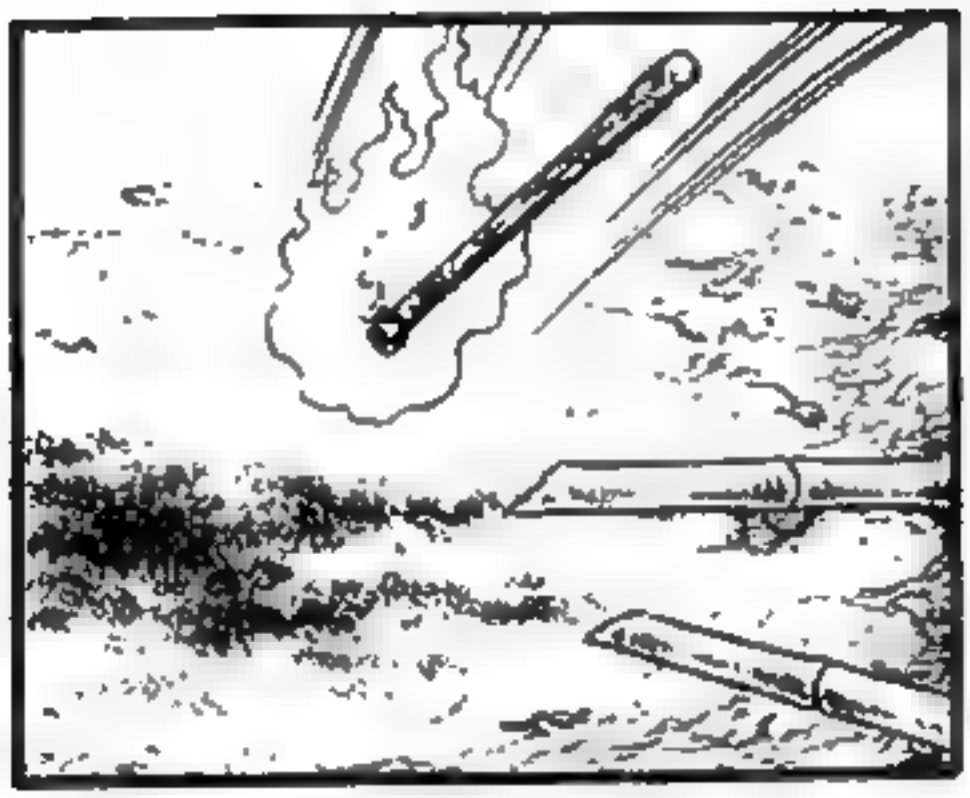
AH!

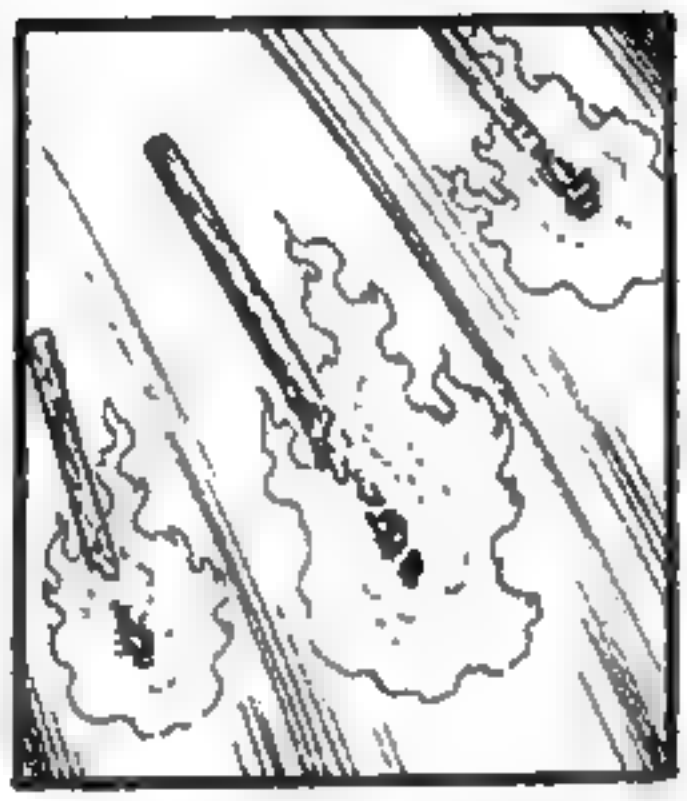
HMPH, SO THEY WERE HIDING ON TOP OF THE CLIFFS...

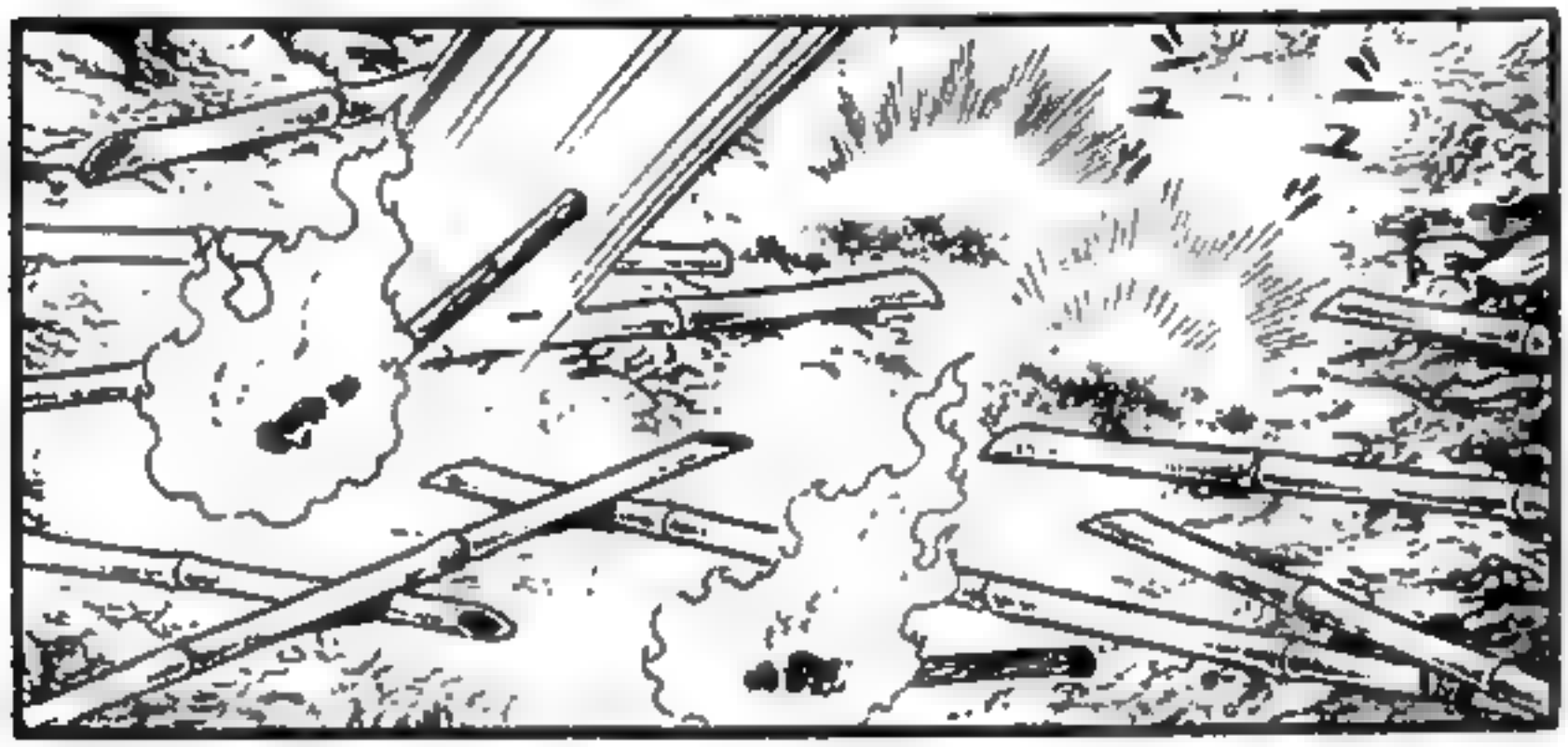

SIRE!

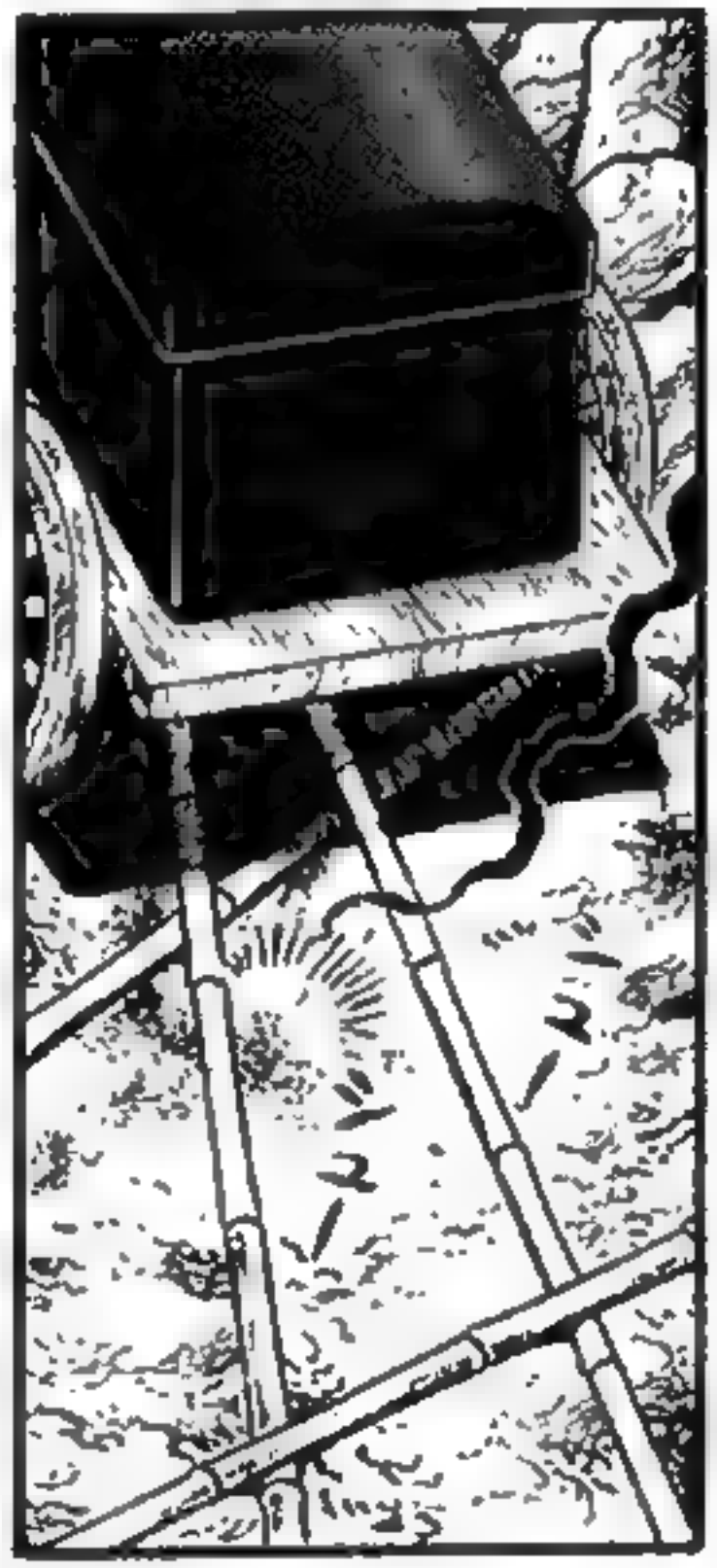

WITHDRAW!

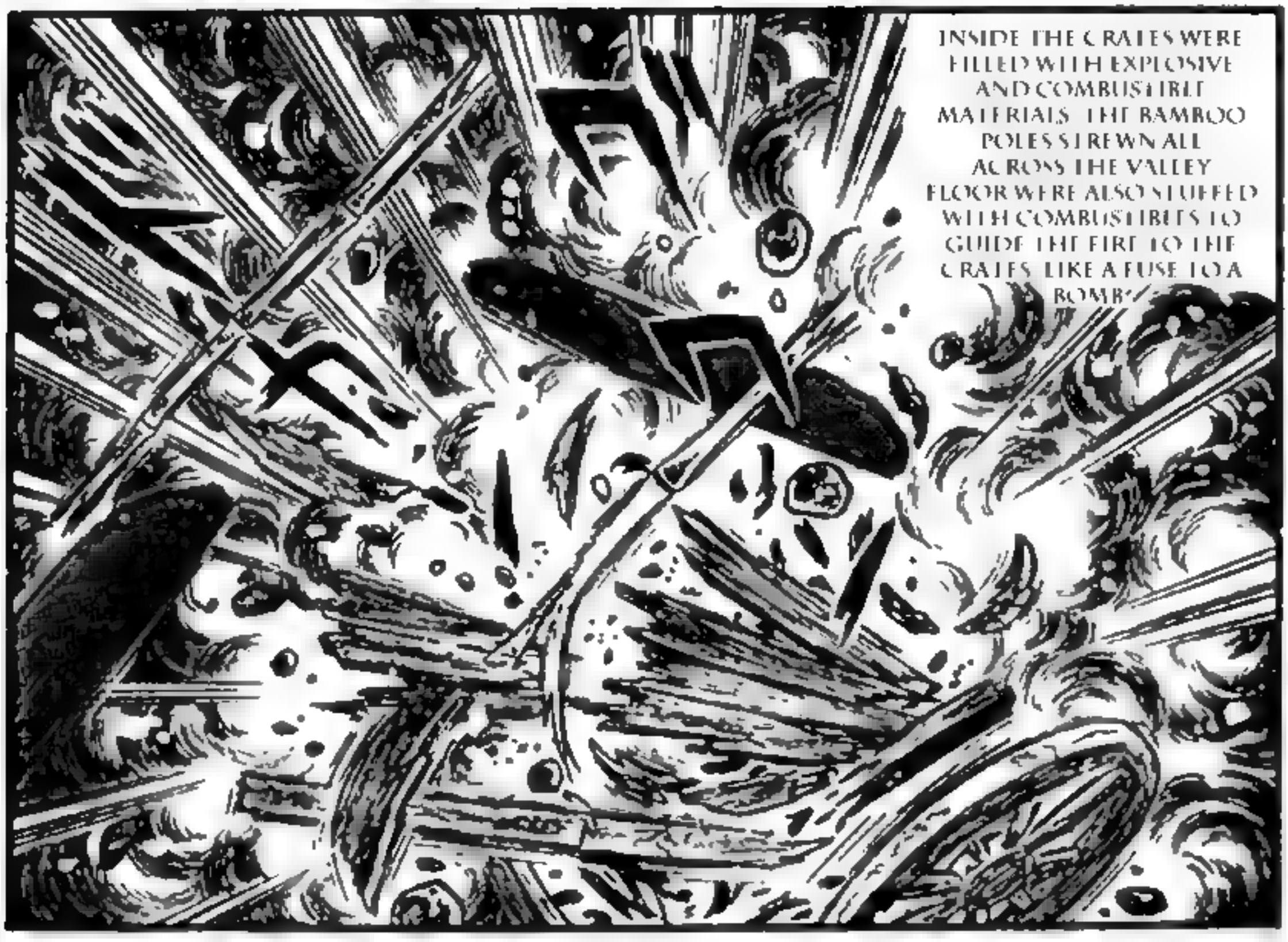
WHAT!? SO WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!?
THE VALLEY ENTRANCE HAS BEEN BLOCKED OFF TOO!

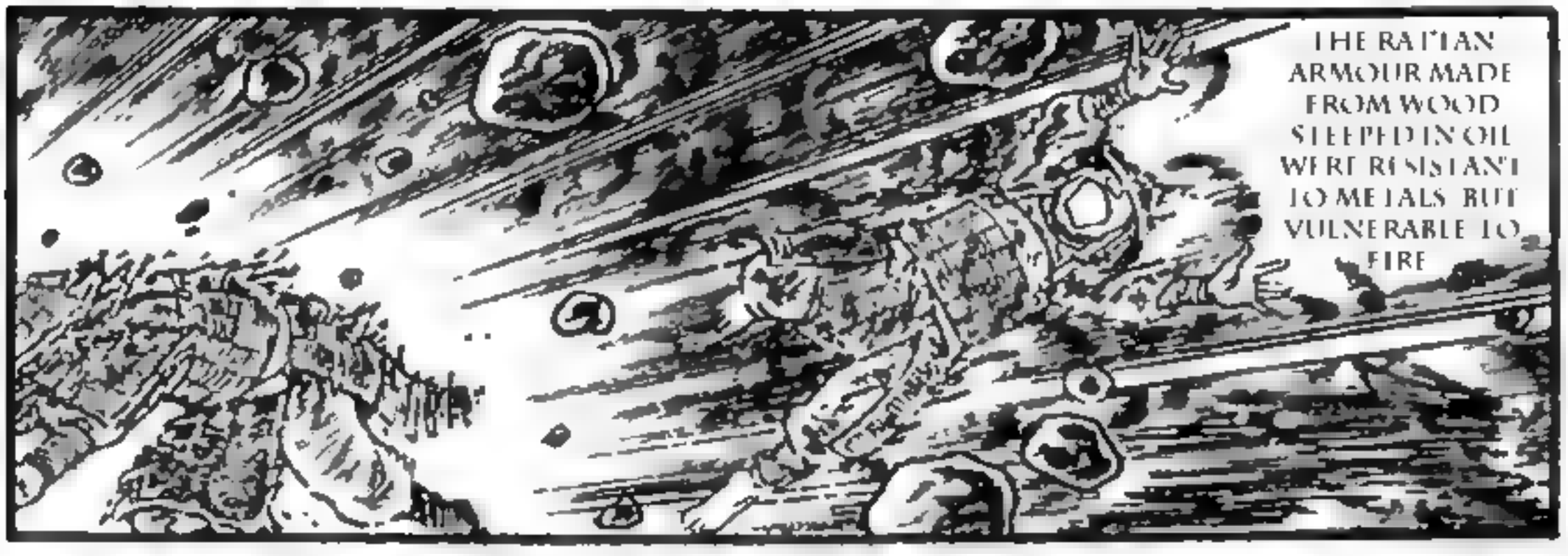









INSIDE THE CRATES WERE FILLED WITH EXPLOSIVE AND COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS THE BAMBOO POLES STREWN ALL ACROSS THE VALLEY FLOOR WERE ALSO STUFFED WITH COMBUSTIBLES TO GUIDE THE FIRE TO THE CRATES LIKE A FUSE TO A BOMB


THE RATTAN ARMOUR MADE FROM WOOD STEEPED IN OIL WERE RESISTANT TO METALS BUT VULNERABLE TO FIRE
UNABLE TO ADVANCE OR RETREAT.

KING WUTU GU AND HIS TROOPS DIED IN AGONY AS THEY WERE BURNED ALIVE
THE HORRIFYING SHRIEKS, STENCH OF BURNING FLESH, AND INTENSE HEAT PAINTED THE VERY IMAGE OF HELL ON EARTH

HEARTFELT SUBMISSION

NEVER THOUGHT THEIR SO-CALLED INVINCIBLE ARMOUR WOULD HAVE SUCH A CRITICAL WEAKNESS...

30,000 SOLDIERS... BURNED ALIVE IN ONE FELL SWOOP...

HM?

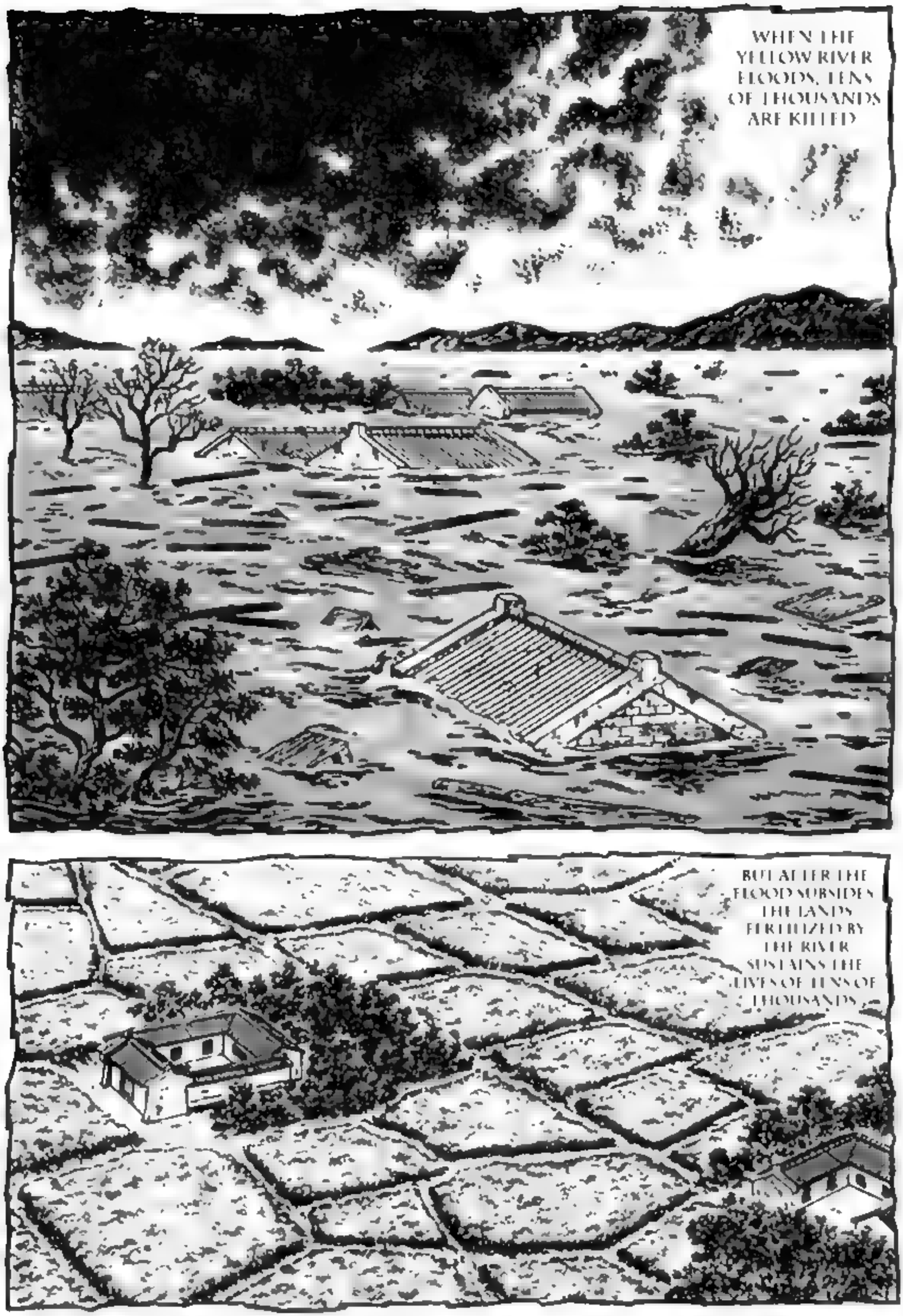
THOUGH THIS IS TO SERVE THE EMPIRE, I HAVE STILL SENT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WUGUO MEN TO THEIR FIERY DEATHS. IT SADDENS ME THAT SUCH CRUELTY WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN VICTORY...

CHANCELLOR, WHY THE TEARS AT OUR GREAT VICTORY?

DID THE CHANCELLOR NOT STEEL HIMSELF FOR ALL POSSIBLE HARDSHIPS AND CHALLENGES BEFORE SETTING OUT ON THIS SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN?

YOU YOURSELF ADMONISHED LU KAI WHEN HE SUGGESTED WE WITHDRAW, SAYING THAT THERE IS NO GREATER CRIME THAN TO LEAVE A MISSION UNFINISHED. WAS IT NOT YOU WHO SAID WE MUST NOT STOP NO MATTER WHAT, LEST MAKE THE SACRIFICES OF OUR MEN BE IN VAIN?

ALL THINGS IN THIS WORLD RISE AND FALL, ONLY TO RISE AND FALL AGAIN. THAT IS THE UNCHANGING CYCLE OF THIS WORLD, WHICH WE HUMANS CANNOT ESCAPE FROM.


WHEN THE YELLOW RIVER FLOODS, TENS OF THOUSANDS ARE KILLED
BUT AFTER THE FLOOD SUBSIDES THE LANDS FERTILIZED BY THE RIVER SUSTAINS THE LIVES OF TENS OF THOUSANDS

THOSE WHO DIED IN BATTLE TODAY ARE AN UNFORTUNATE, BUT UNAVOIDABLE DOWNSIDE TO YOUR RIGHTEOUS MISSION. THROUGH THIS TRAGEDY, THE SEEDS OF GOVERNMENT CAN BE SOWN, AND IN TIME, STRONG STATE AUTHORITY WILL MAKE THESE BARBARIANS WHO ONCE LIVED FOR WAR AND PLUNDER INTO MEN WHO LOVE PEACE.

FLOODS ARE ACTS OF HEAVEN, AND THUS CARRY NO MORAL GOODNESS OR WICKEDNESS, BUT YOUR ATTEMPT TO BRING PROPER GOVERNMENT AND STATE AUTHORITY TO THE SOUTHERN LANDS IS A HUMAN ENDEAVOUR.

THANK YOU FOR CHEERING ME UP.

YES, WISE WORDS, GENERAL...

YES, I KNOW. I ALREADY HAVE PLANS SO HE WILL BE CAUGHT QUICKLY IF YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS.

CHANCELLOR, WE STILL HAVE MENG HUO TO DEAL WITH.

WHAT IS IT?
CAN I ASK ONE OTHER THING, CHANCELLOR?
YES, YOU SAW CORRECTLY.
I UNDERSTAND THE CRATES WERE FILLED WITH COMBUST-IBLES, BUT WHEN WE THREW THE TORCHES DOWN TO THE VALLEY, I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW FLAMES RISE UP FROM THE GROUND AS WELL...

?

MINES?

THEY ARE A SPECIAL WEAPON CALLED "MINES," WHICH WERE BURIED JUST UNDERNEATH THE SURFACE.

SUCH A WEAPON EXISTS?

YES, A SORT OF ORB CONTAINING 9 SMALLER ORBS STUFFED WITH EXPLOSIVES. THESE WERE BURIED 30 PACES APART FROM EACH OTHER BUT CONNECTED BY BAMBOO TUBES STUFFED WITH COMBUSTIBLES, SO THAT IF ONE WERE TO CATCH ON FIRE, ALL WOULD CATCH ON FIRE AND EXPLODE.

IT IS SOMETHING I CAME UP WITH IN MY YOUNGER DAYS, AND I BROUGHT IT ALONG JUST IN CASE FOR THIS CAMPAIGN.

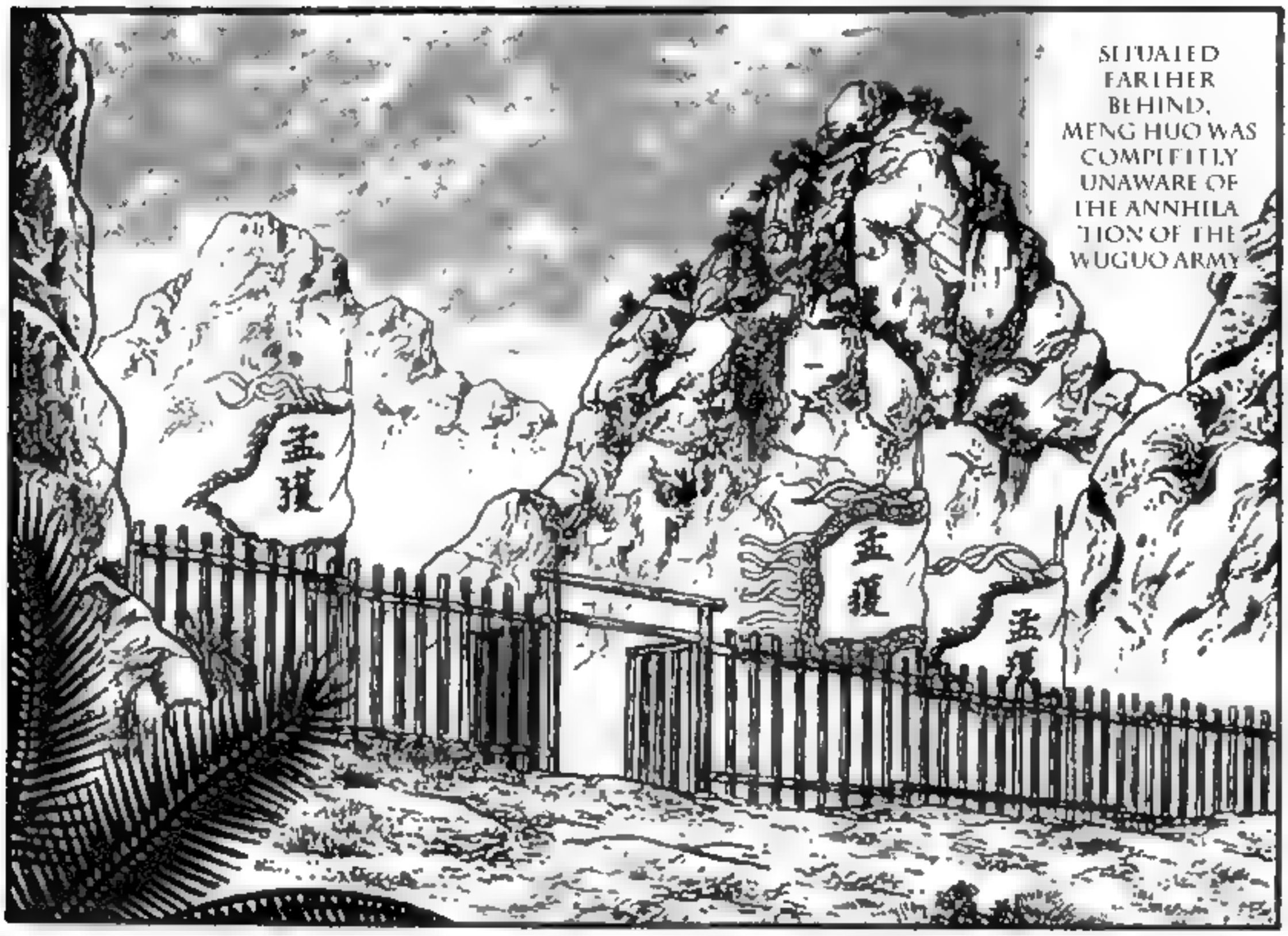
AS YOU PROBABLY UNDERSTAND BY NOW, I ORDERED WEI YAN TO RETREAT SO THAT THE ENEMIES COULD BE TRAPPED HERE IN THIS VALLEY.

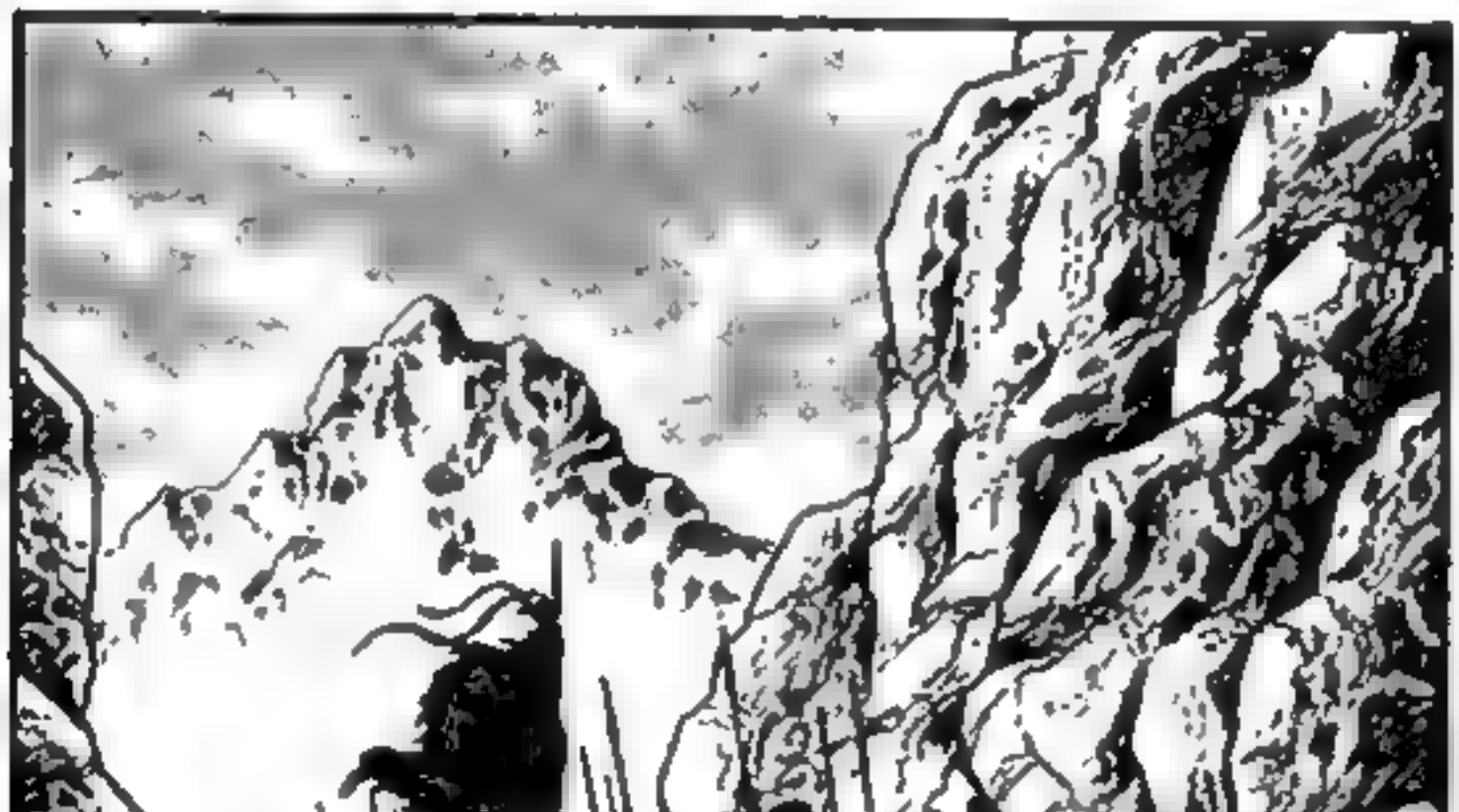
THAT IS WHY 15 RETREATS AND THE LOSS OF 7 CAMPS WERE NEEDED TO BAIT THE ENEMIES INTO BECOMING CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO CHASE US INTO THIS DANGEROUSLY NARROW VALLEY.

BUT OF COURSE, SINCE MENG HUO HAD ALREADY BEEN BEATEN 6 TIMES BEFORE, RETREATING JUST 2 OR 3 TIMES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO SHAKE OFF THEIR CALITION.

YOUR COMPLIMENTS MAKE MY 15 RETREATS A BADGE OF HONOUR, CHANCELLOR.

I KNOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN FRUS-TRATING, BUT YOU'VE FULFILLED YOUR TASK VERY WELL, WEI YAN.


SITUATED FARTHER BEHIND, MENG HUO WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE ANNHILATION OF THE WUGUO ARMY
孟獲
孟獲
孟獲



HM?

WHAT!

SIR, I THINK NANMAN TROOPS ARE APPROACHING!

AH!

A GREAT VICTORY THAT WAS!

AH, IT'S KING MENG HUO!

IDENTIFY YOUR-SELVES!

WE ARE NANMAN TRIBESMEN OF THIS REGION WHO WERE FORCED TO SUBMIT TO SHU, BUT UPON HEARING YOU HAD RALLIED THE WUGUO TO YOUR SIDE AND WERE PUSHING THE FOREIGNERS BACK, WE DECIDED TO REBEL AS WELL.

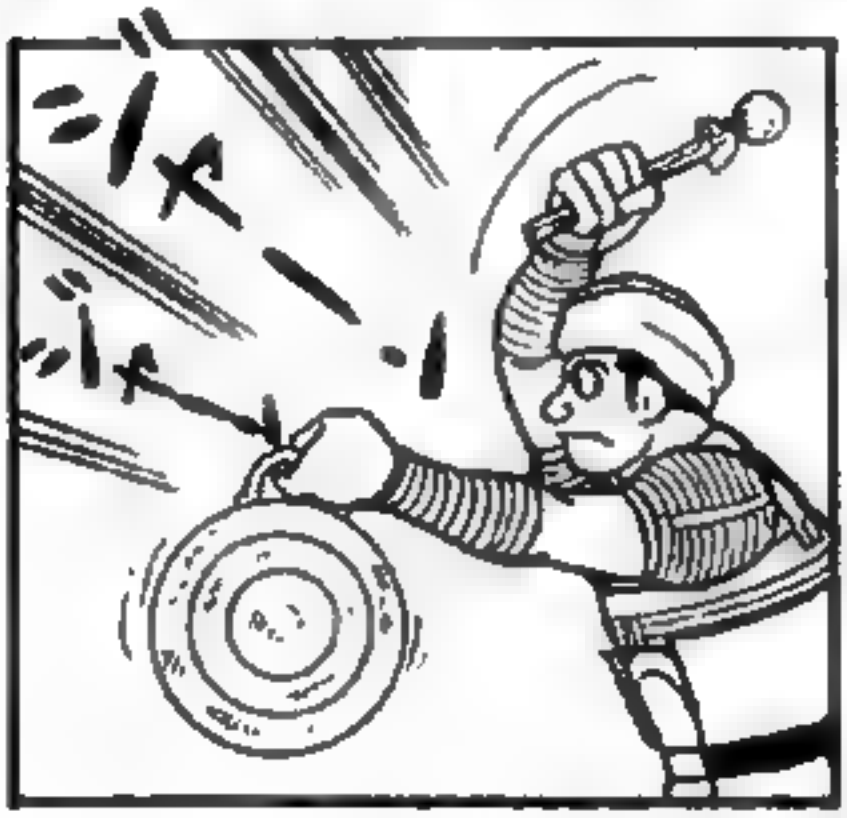
IN FACT, WE JOINED UP WITH THE WUGUO ARMY JUST NOW AND HELPED TRAP ZHUGE LIANG AND THE REMNANTS OF HIS ARMY IN COILED SERPENT VALLEY. KING WUTU GU URGES YOU TO COME QUICKLY, SO YOU CAN WITNESS ZHUGE LIANG'S DEATH.

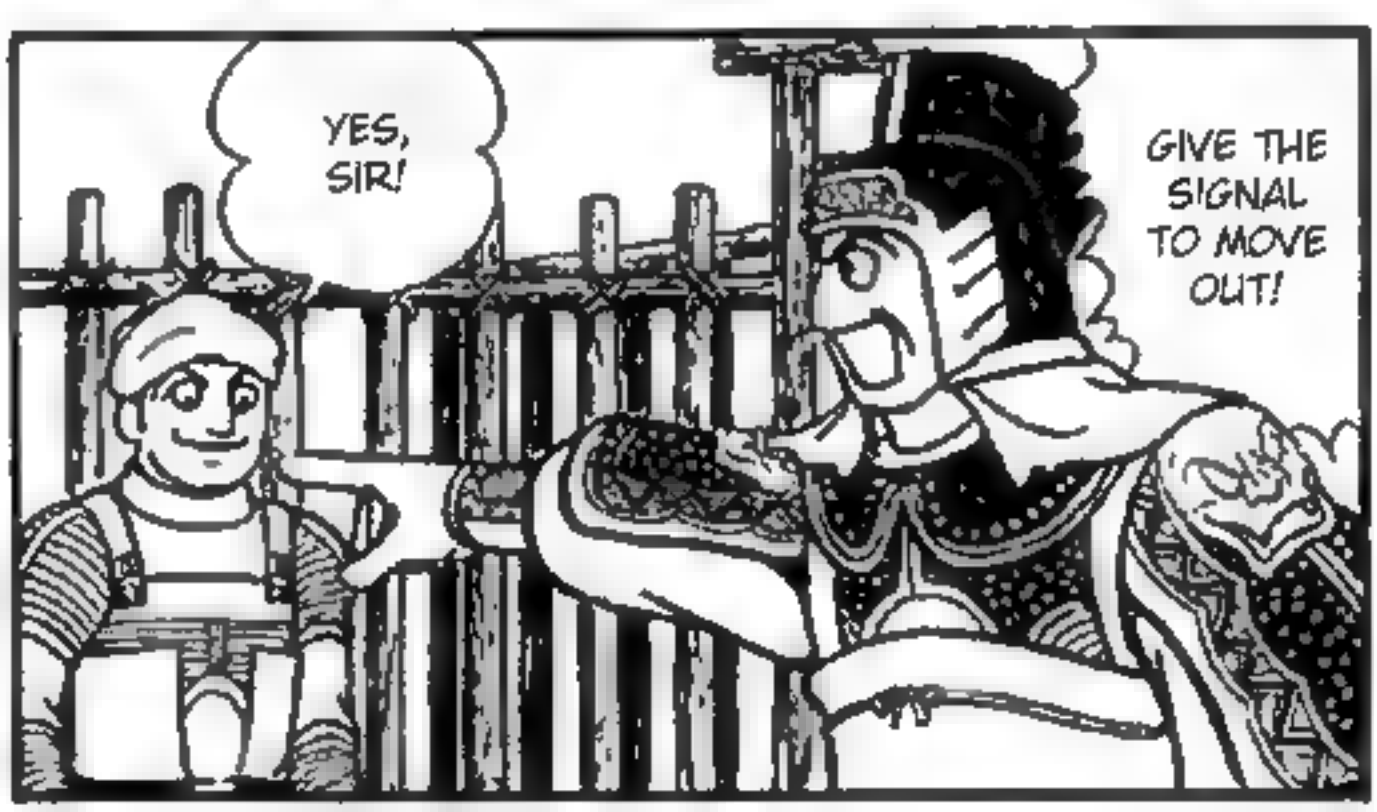
YES.

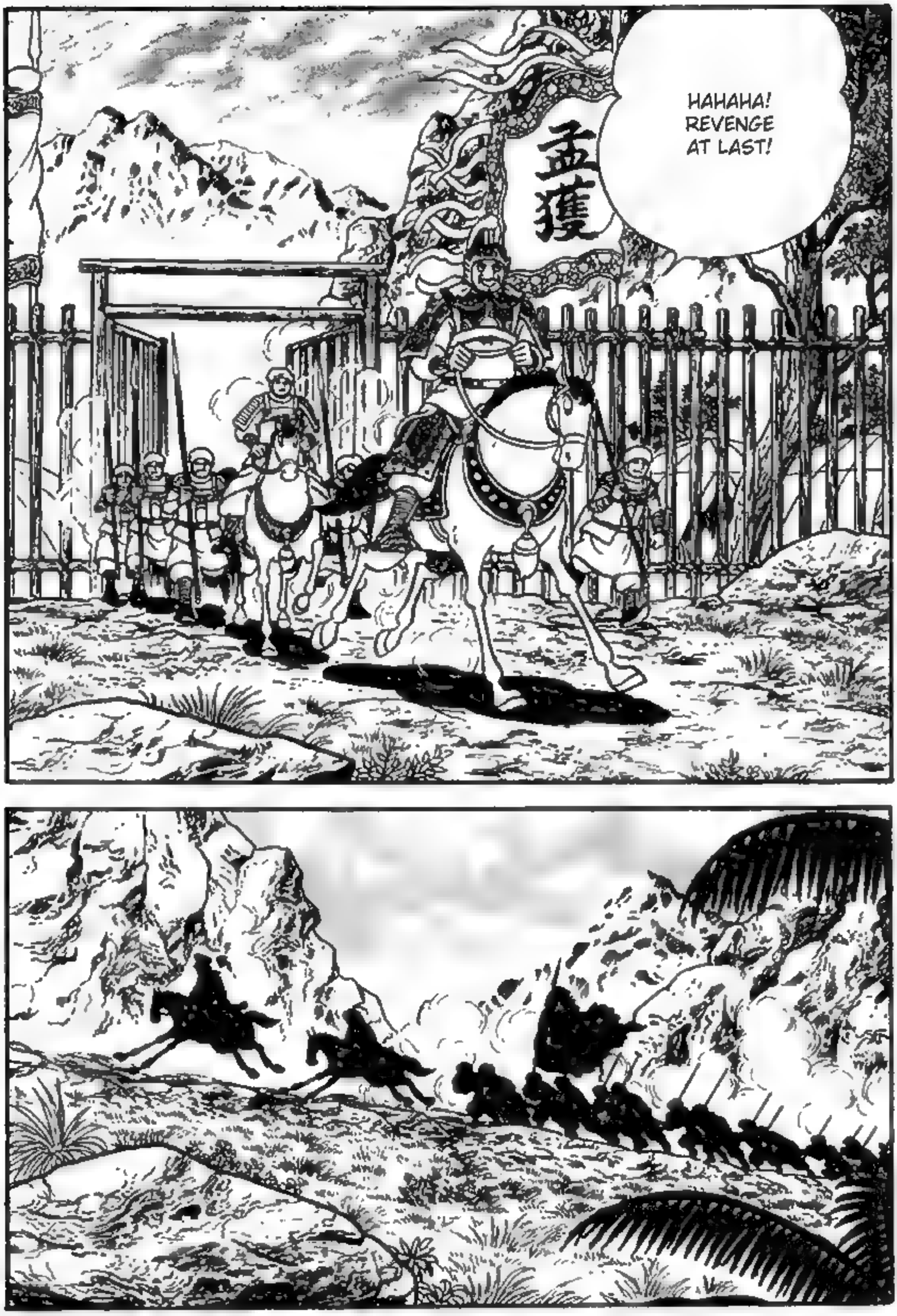
WUTU GU HAS TRAPPED KONGMING!?

I CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THIS!

HA, SO HIS END HAS COME AT LAST, HAS IT!?

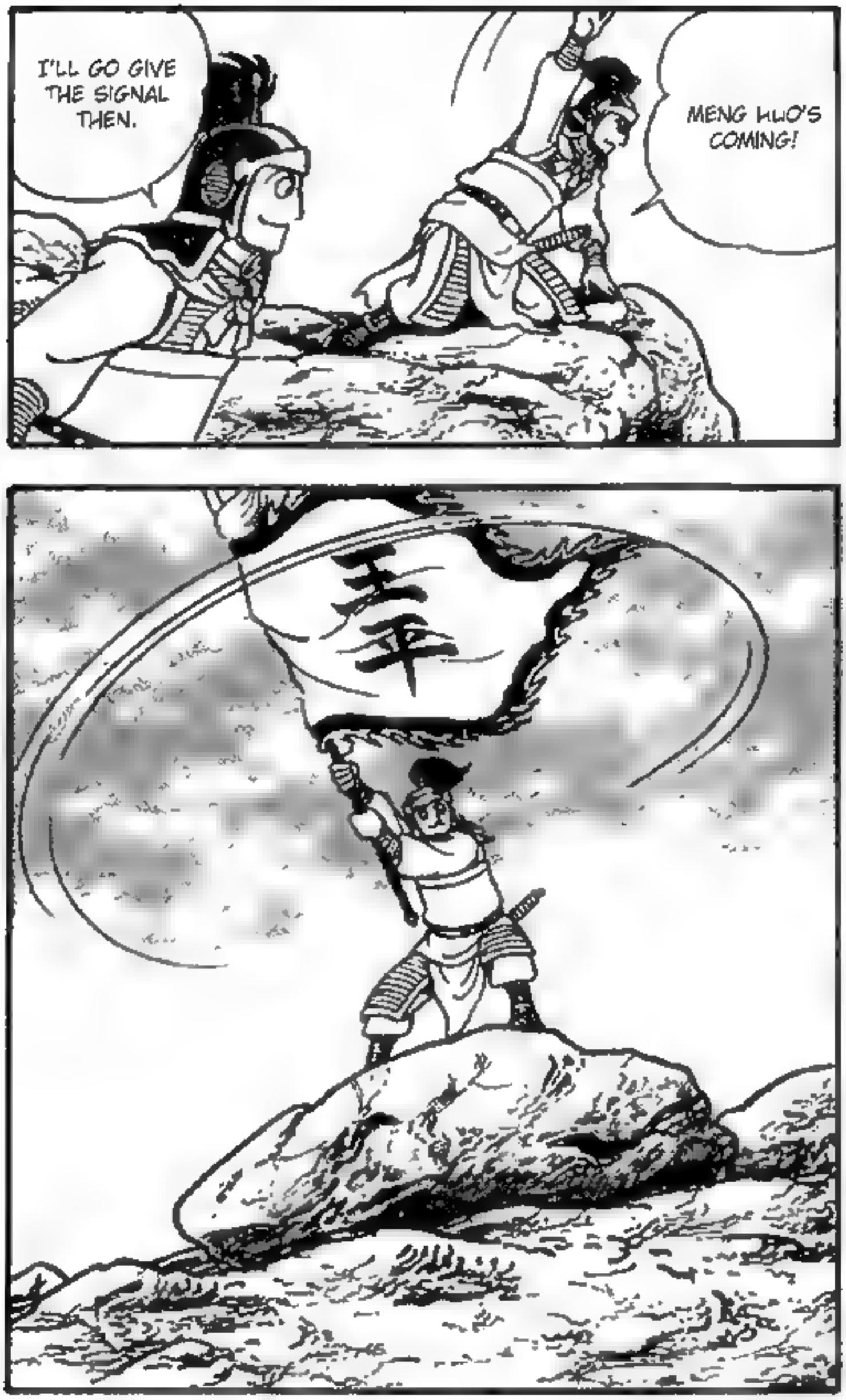



YES, SIR!
GIVE THE SIGNAL TO MOVE OUT!


孟獲
HAHAHA!
REVENGE
AT LAST!

I'LL GO GIVE THE SIGNAL THEN.

MENG HUO'S COMING!

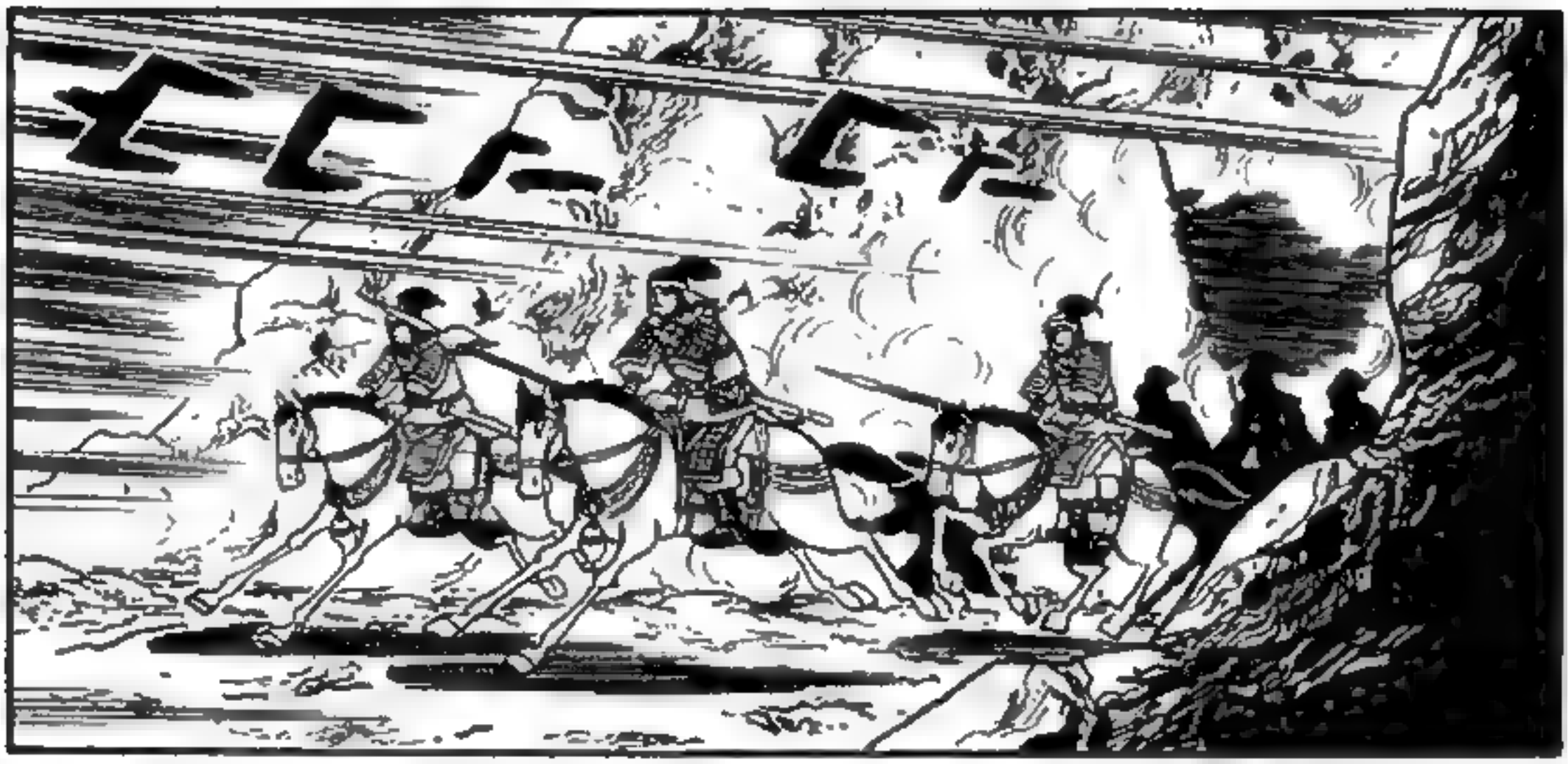


TIME TO ARREST MENG HUO!

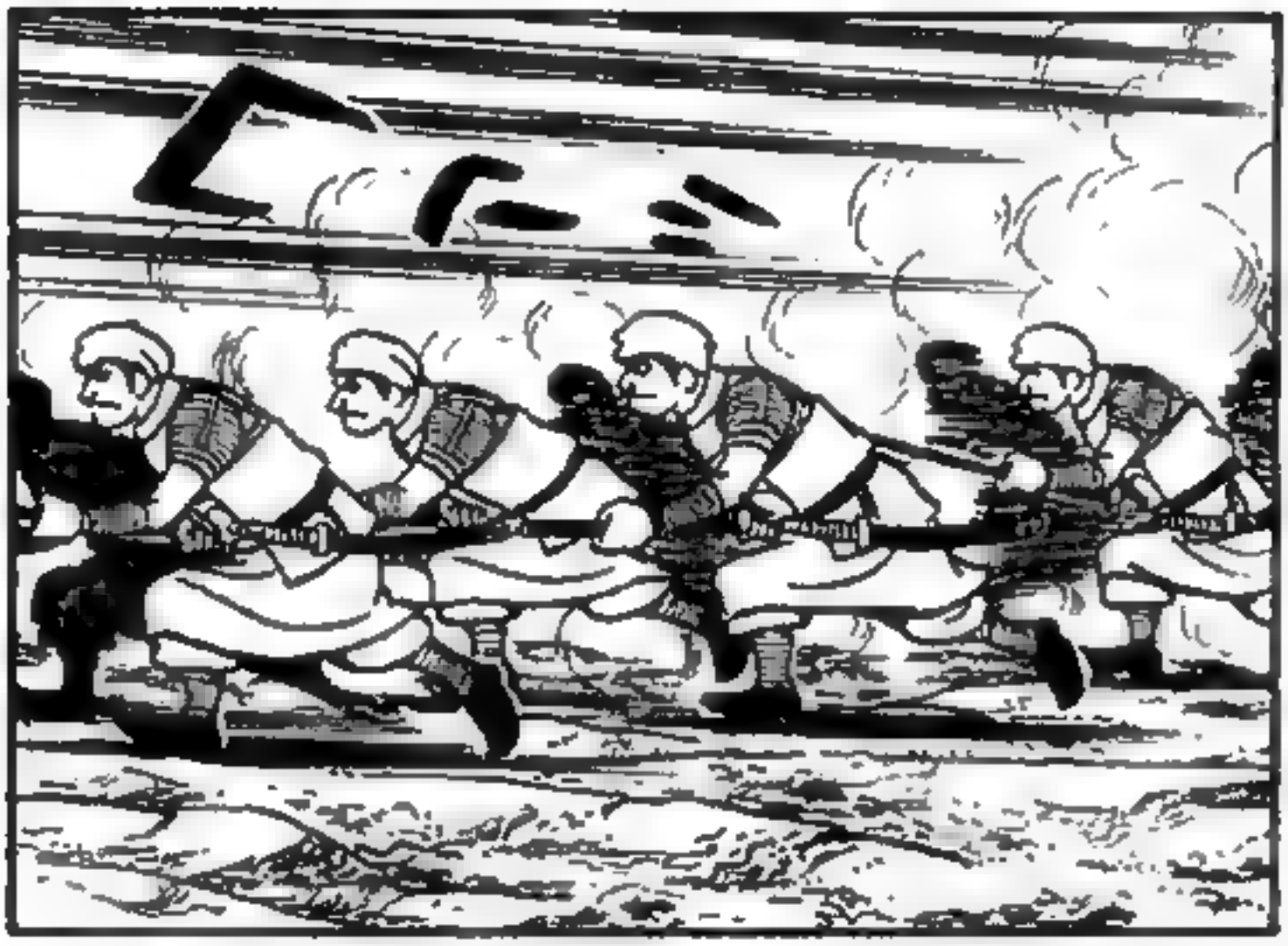
LET'S MOVE OUT!

HM?

WHAT IN THE...
OH NO! DON'T TELL ME IT'S ANOTHER TRAP!


ヒヒーン ヒヒーン

張嶷
ドン



SPLIT OFF INTO TWO!

?

YOU AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY!

THERE HE IS! CATCH MENG HUO!

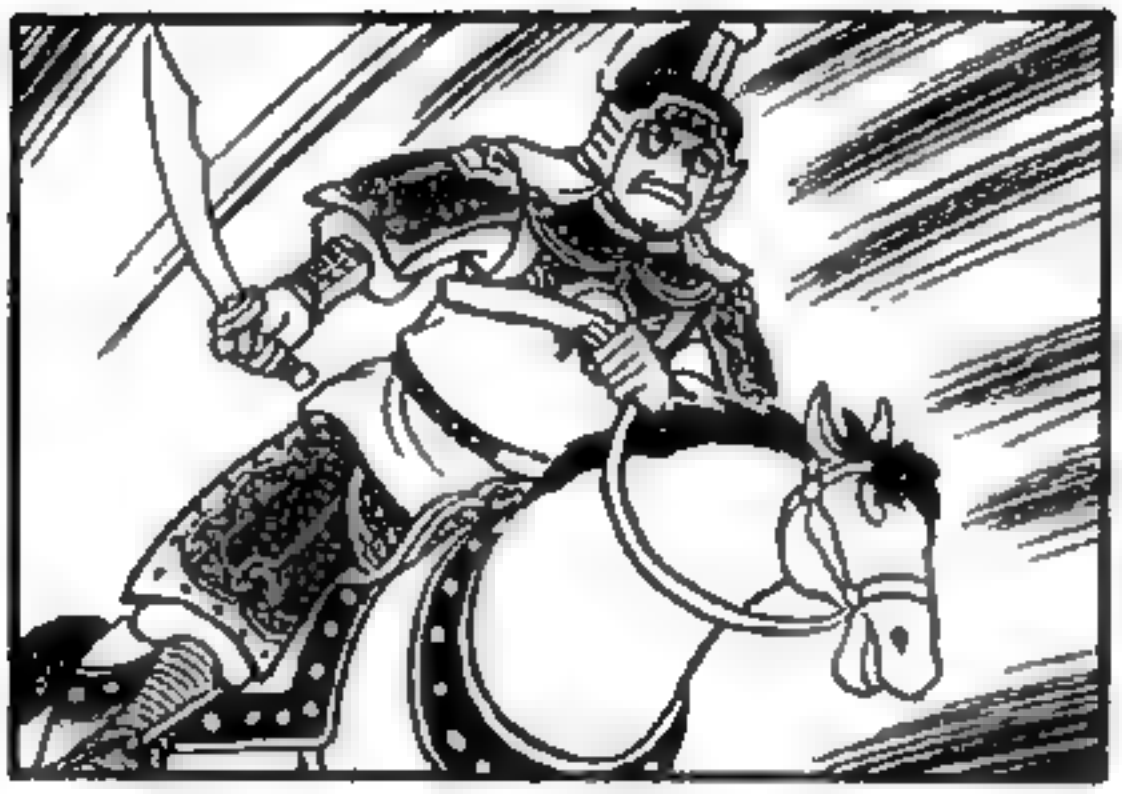
SO YOU WERE ON THEIR SIDE ALL ALONG!

TAKE HIM ALIVE!

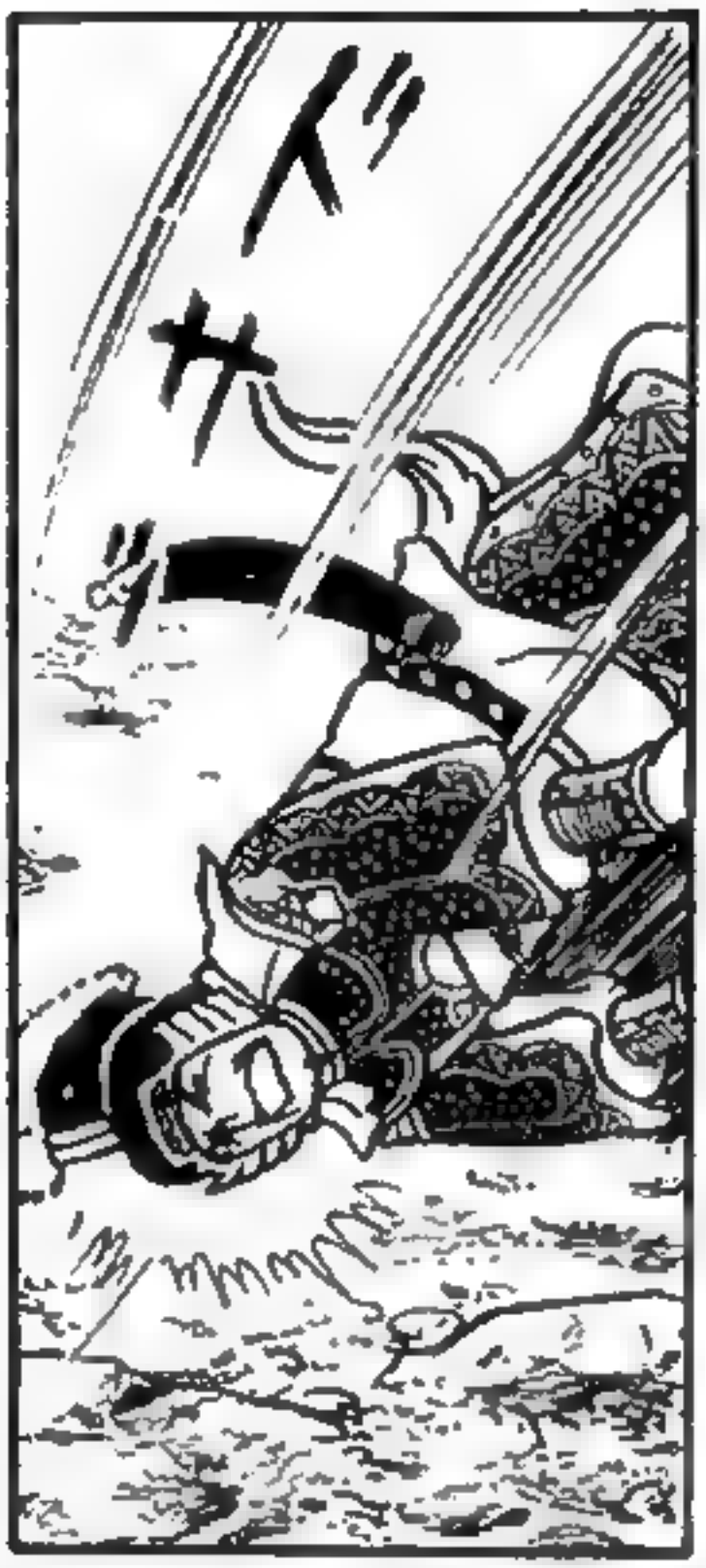
DAMN IT, I CAN'T LET MYSELF BE CAUGHT AGAIN!

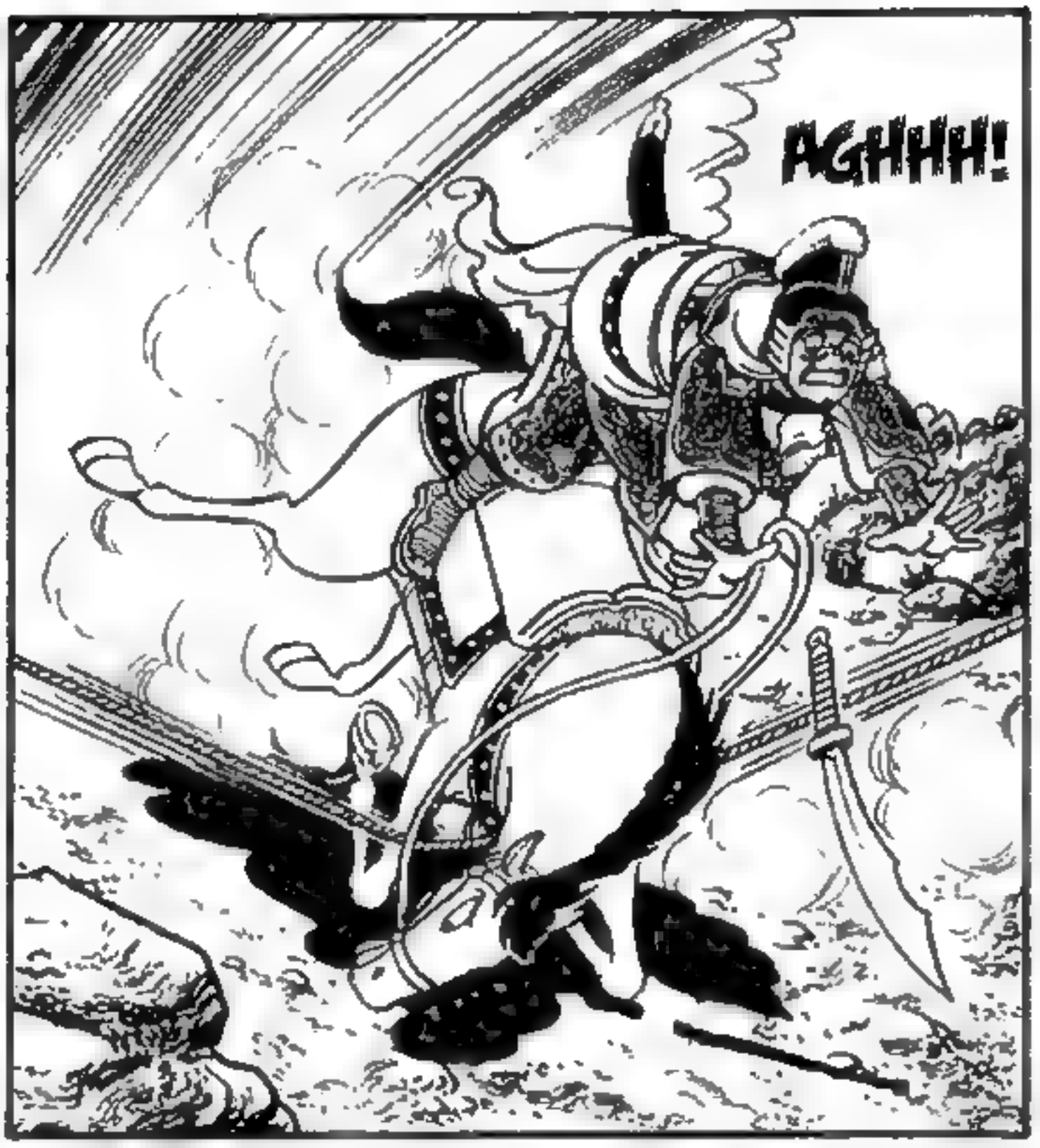
SURELY YOU REALIZE YOU CANNOT BEAT ME BY NOW, RIGHT, MENG HUO?

AHH!

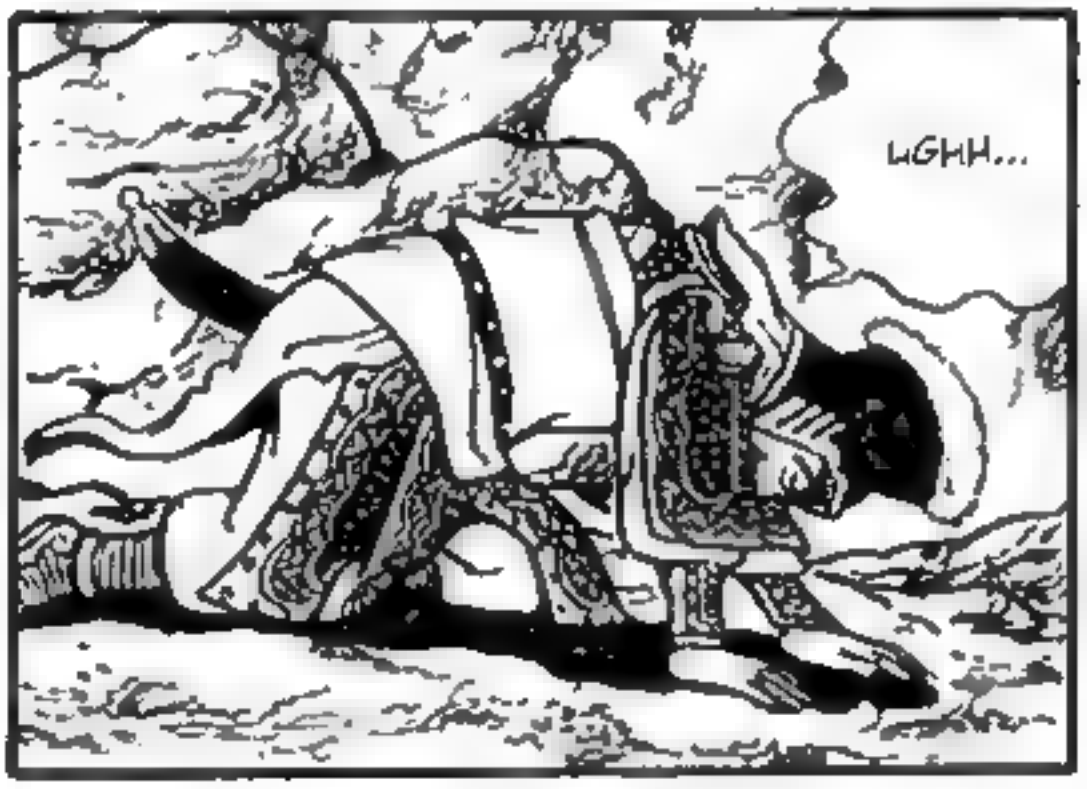


I CAN'T LET IT ALL END LIKE THIS...!


K"
++
"


AGHHH!

ENOUGH SHAMEFUL RUNNING AWAY.


UGHH...

TAKE HIM AWAY!

LET ME UNTIE YOUR ROPES.

蜀

THIS WAY, SIR.

AHH!

YES, THE CAMPS WERE ATTACKED ONCE YOU LEFT WITH THE TROOPS...

YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT TOO...?

THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL MEAL.

WITH THE FALL OF WUGUO, THIS IS OUR END AS WELL...

A BELATED REALIZATION.

HA... TO THINK I WOULD BE SO THOROUGHLY BEATEN AGAIN... WE REALLY WERE NO MATCH FOR HIM.

YES, YES, I'M PREPARED TO GIVE UP MY HEAD.

I BRING A WORD FROM THE CHANCEL-LOR.

AS SUCH, HE IS WILLING TO LET YOU GO ONCE MORE AND CHALLENGE HIM IF YOU WISH. YOU MAY EVEN LEAVE RIGHT NOW.

THE CHANCELLOR SAYS HE IS TOO ASHAMED TO SHOW HIMSELF BEFORE YOU, FOR HE COULD NOT WIN OVER THE WUGUO WITH BENEVOLENCE, AND ENDED UP KILLING THEIR ENTIRE ARMY BY THE MOST GRUESOME MEANS.

THAT CAN'T BE...!

YES, SIR.

HE'LL LET ME GO!?

I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF SOMEONE BEING TAKEN PRISONER 7 TIMES AND RELEASED ALL 7 TIMES...

FOR WHAT PURPOSE, SIR?

NO, LET ME MEET THE CHANCELLOR!

VERY WELL, I SHALL GO ASK HIM.

PLEASE DO SO...

TO SEEK FORGIVENESS.

THE HAN MAY CALL US BAR-BARIANS, BUT EVEN I KNOW RECTITUDE AND HUMILITY...

MN...

Y-YES, SIR...
DID YOU REALLY WISH TO ASK FOR MY FOR-GIVENESS?

PLEASE FORGIVE THIS BAR-BARIAN!

7 TIMES CAPTURED AND 7 TIMES PARDONED! BARBARIAN, I MAY BE, BUT EVEN I RECOGNIZE MY SHAME AND THE DEBT I OWE YOU...

EARLIER, I WAS FEELING DEPRESSED AT THE THOUGHT OF HOW MUCH LONGER I MUST SHED NEEDLESS BLOOD IN MY BATTLES WITH YOU.

YES, I DO NOT KNOW WHY I DID NOT REALIZE IT EARLIER...

ARE YOUR WORDS SINCERE?

THANK YOU, SIR.

LET US LIVE TOGETHER THEN, MENG HUO.

BUT IT SEEMS YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND MY HEART.

YOUR SINS ARE NOW MINE TO BEAR AND MY GLORIES ARE YOURS TO TAKE JOY IN. I FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS THE NANMAN KING AND INVEST IN YOU THE POWERS BEFITTING THAT RANK. YOU ARE TO SERVE AS THE VICEROY OF THESE SOUTHERN REGIONS IN MY STEAD, SO PLEASE ENSURE THE PEACE AND HAPPINESS OF YOUR PEOPLE.

YES.

YOU WOULD ENTRUST THIS SLOW-WITTED FOOL TO BE THE KING OF THESE LANDS!?

I AM SPEECHLESS AT YOUR MERCY...

UU...

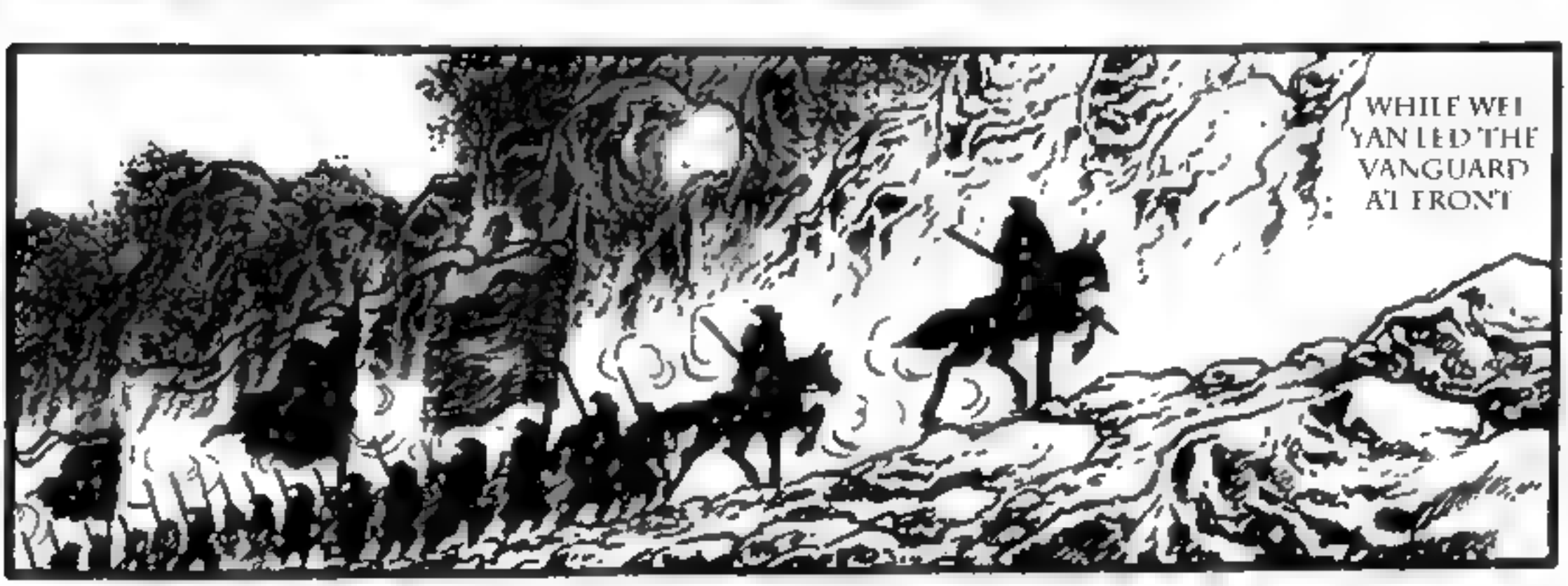
TRIUMPHAL RETURN

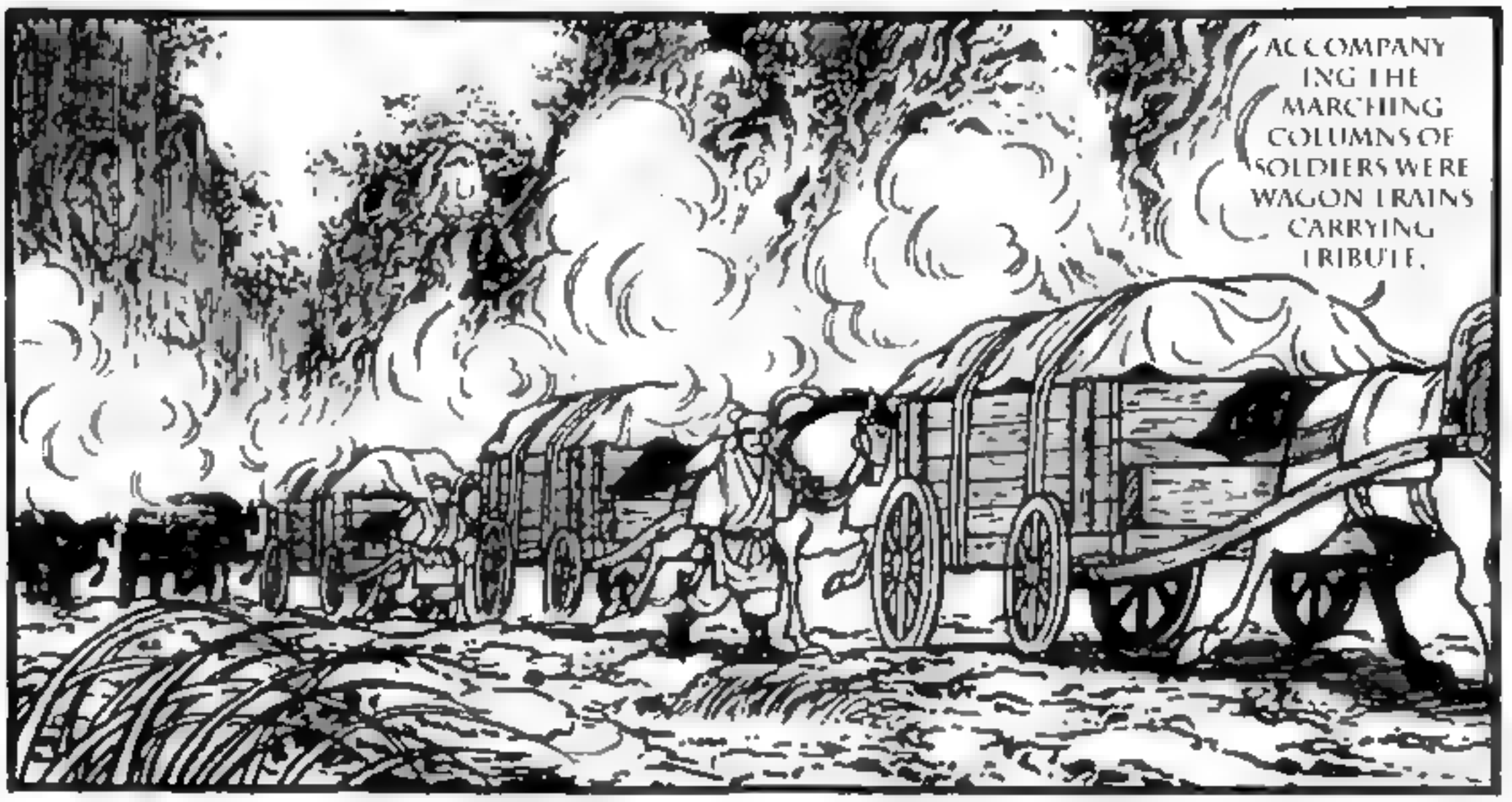
IT WAS THE 9TH MONTH OF THE 3RD YEAR IN THE SHU ERA OF BEGINNING PROSPERITY (225 AD), AND AT LAST, THE SHU ARMY BEGAN ITS MARCH BACK HOME
蜀
蜀
魏

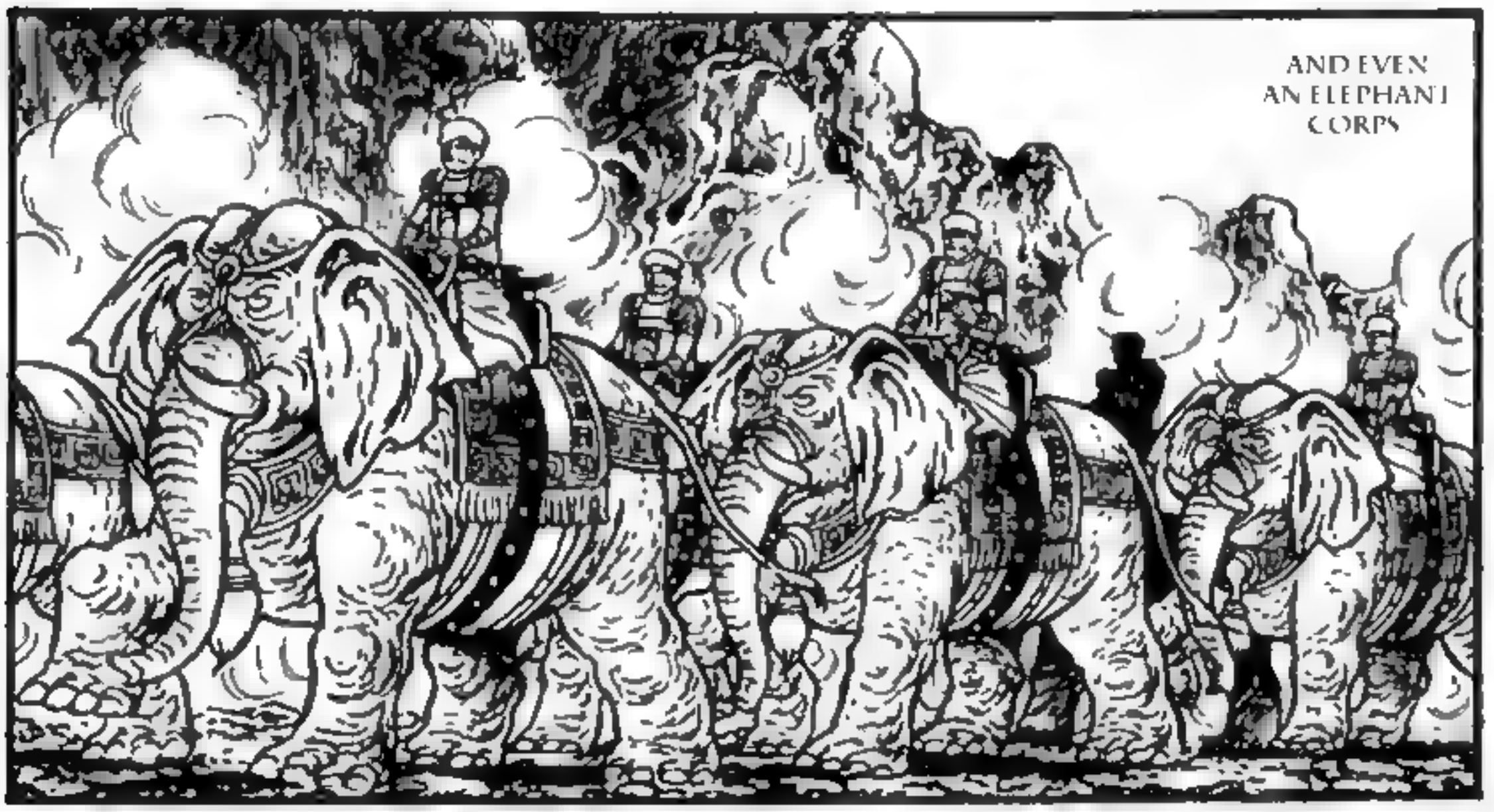
KONG-
MING,
SEATED
ON HIS
PERSONAL
CHARIOT
AS USUAL.

趙雲
蜀
WAS SUR-
ROUNDED
BY THE
CENTRAL
ARMY.

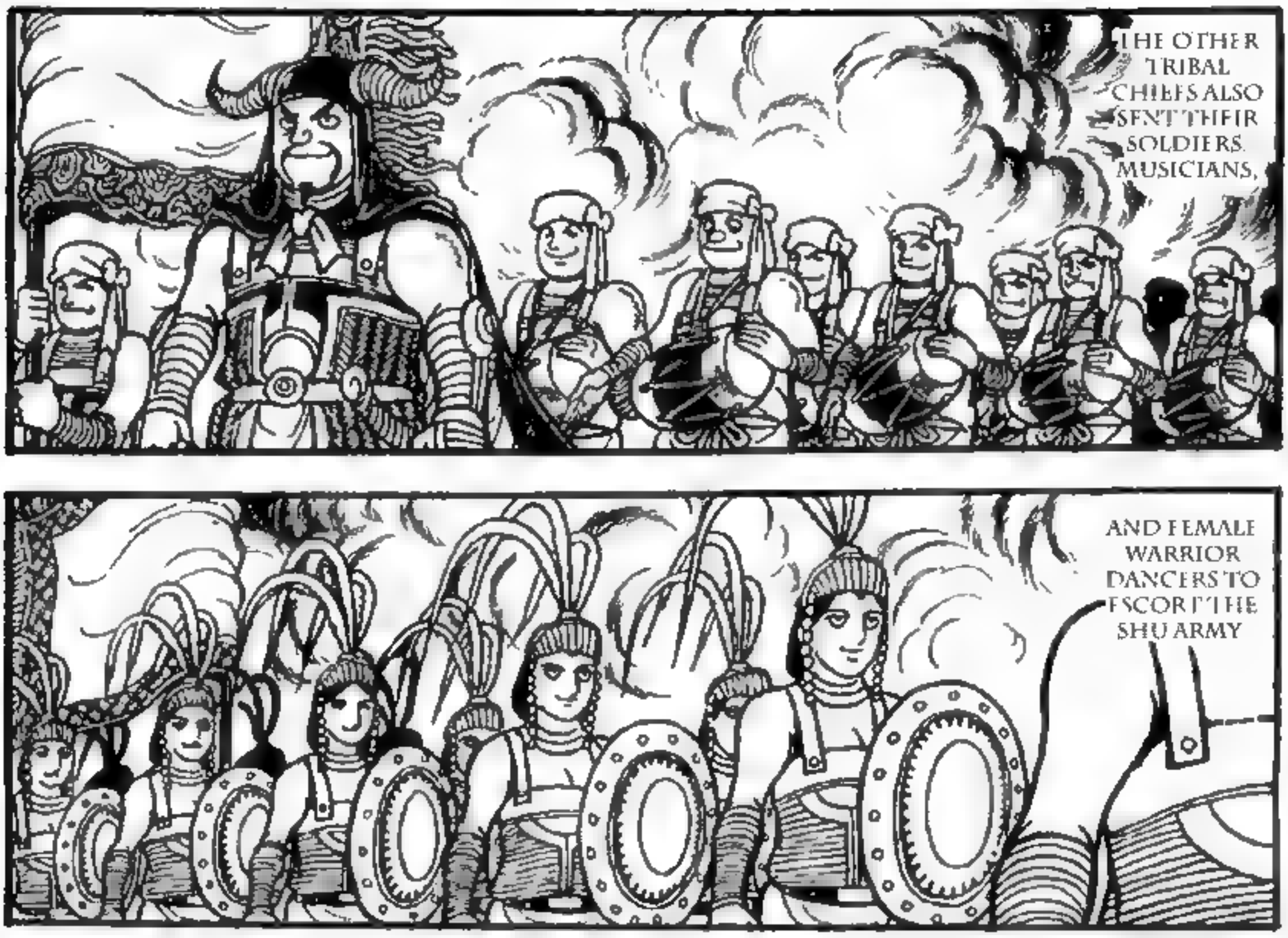
AND THE TWO
ARMIES ON
THE LEFT AND
RIGHT WING.

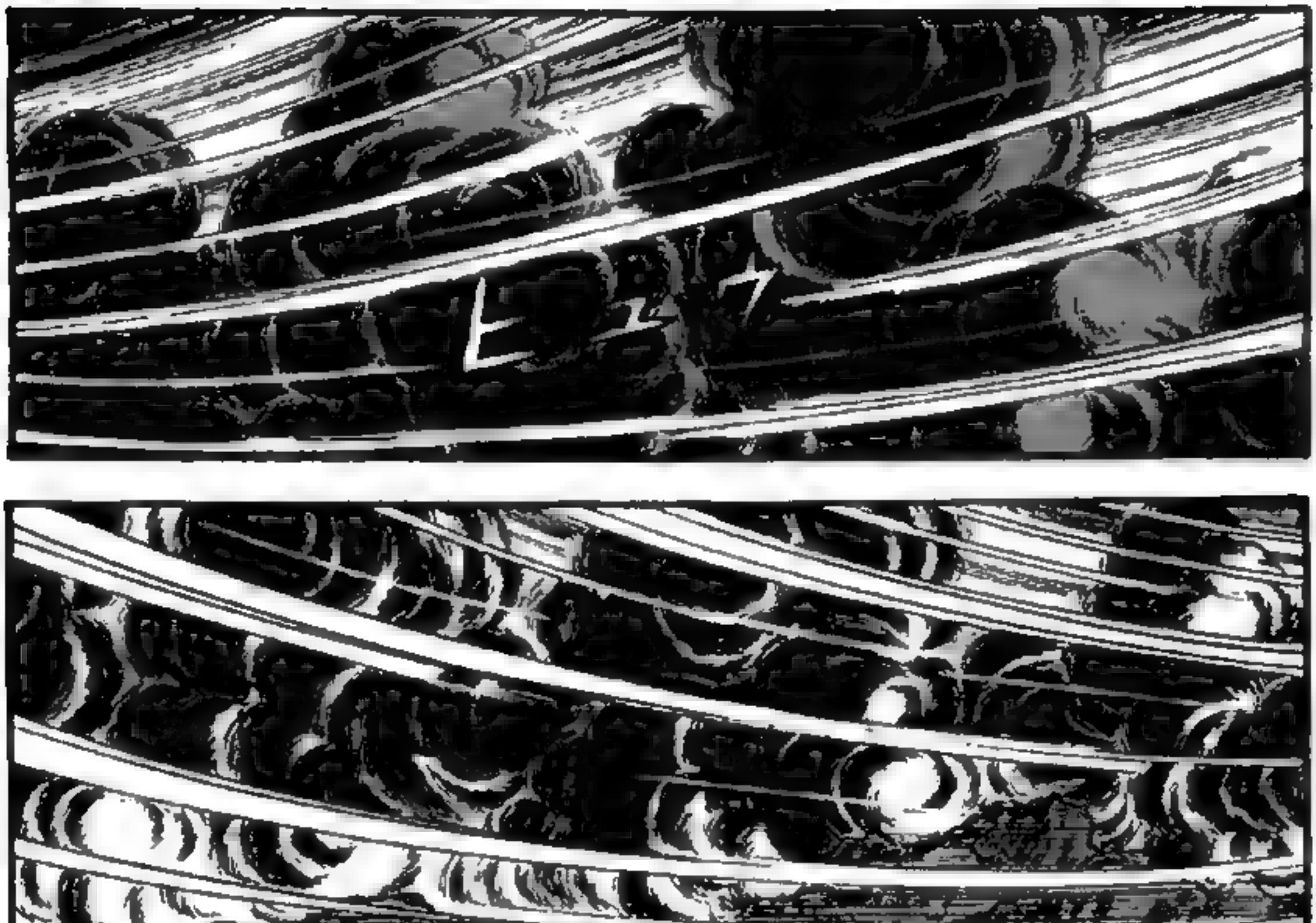

WHILE WEI
YAN LED THE
VANGUARD
AT FRONT


ACCOMPANY
ING THE
MARCHING
COLUMNS OF
SOLDIERS WERE
WAGON TRAINS
CARRYING
TRIBUTE.


AND EVEN
AN ELEPHANT
CORPS

孟獲
MENG HUO HAD
INSISTED HE
AND HIS
TROOPS ESCORT
THE SHU ARMY
TO THE LU
RIVER.


THE OTHER TRIBAL CHIEFS ALSO SENT THEIR SOLDIERS, MUSICIANS,
AND FEMALE WARRIOR DANCERS TO ESCORT THE SHU ARMY
IT WAS A SIGHT LIKE NO OTHER


ビューナ
ビューナ

SET UP CAMP HERE UNTIL THE WINDS CALM DOWN.

WE CAN'T CROSS THE RIVER LIKE THIS...

YES, SIR.

OF COURSE.

CHANCELLOR, MAY I TEACH YOU A WAY TO CALM THESE CURRENTS SO THAT YOU MAY CROSS THE RIVER?

49 HUMAN HEADS!?

THIS RIVER HAS BEEN HAUNTED BY EVIL SPIRITS SINCE AGES PAST. WHEN THEY ARE RESTLESS, THEY CAUSE THE RIVER TO BECOME VIOLENT AS IT IS NOW. TO CALM THEM, 49 HUMAN HEADS MUST BE SACRIFICED.

NO, PLEASE DO NOT.

YES, AND SHOULD YOU WISH, I CAN PREPARE THE SACRIFICES AT ONCE.

YOU LEAVE THE SPIRITS TO ME. I HAVE MY OWN METHODS OF DEALING WITH THEM.

BUT AT THIS RATE, THE EVIL SPIRITS MAY EVEN CURSE YOU, SIR...

THE WAR IS OVER AT LAST. I DO NOT WANT TO SHED ANY MORE BLOOD.

YES, SIR...

SO THERE WAS SUCH A CUSTOM AMONG THE NANMAN...

BUT SUPERSTITIONS ARE NOT THINGS THAT CAN BE SO EASILY CLEARED AWAY...

BUT TO RESORT TO HUMAN SACRIFICE WHENEVER A STORM HITS THIS RIVER IS A WICKED CUSTOM WHICH MUST NOT BE CONTINUED. I MUST PUT A STOP TO IT AT ONCE.

YES, SIR.
YOU'RE THE CAMP COOK, CORRECT?

TAKE BITS OF BEEF AND SQUEEZE THEM INTO ROUND BALLS.

AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE, SIR?

THERE IS A SPECIAL DISH I WANT YOU TO COOK.

THEN, DECORATE THE FLOUR-COVERING SO THAT THESE "HEADS" HAVE EYES AND NOSES LIKE REAL HUMAN HEADS. YOU ARE TO MAKE 49 OF THESE HEADS.

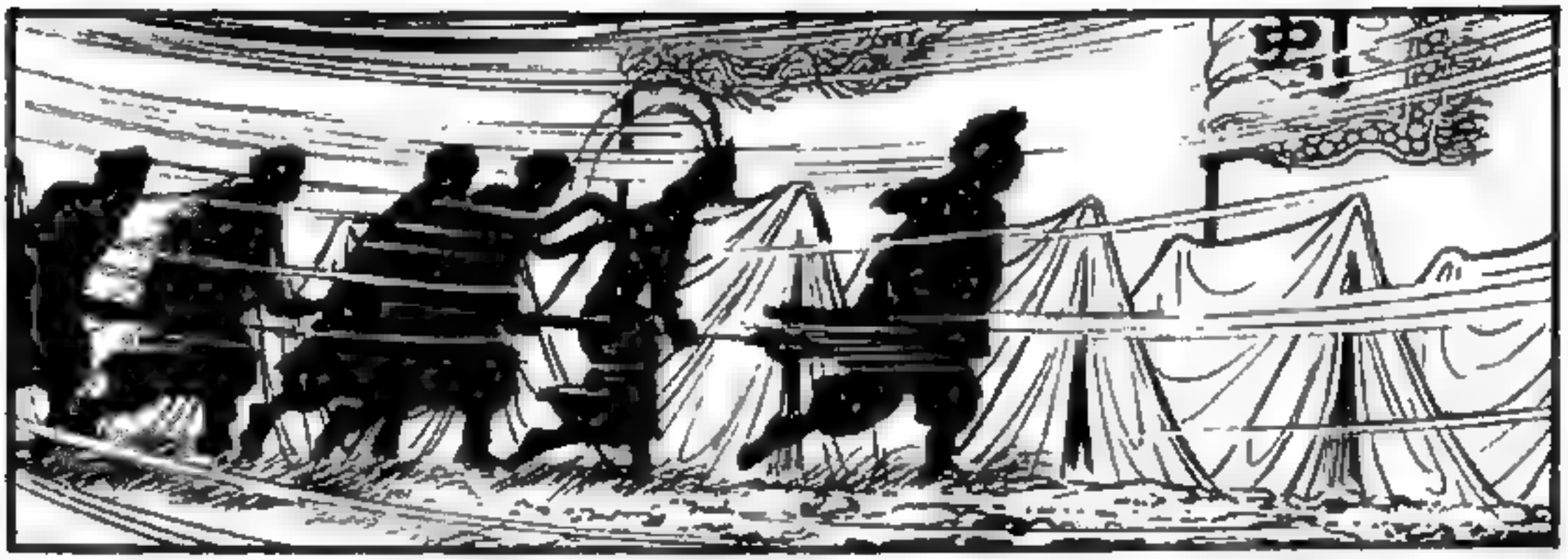
?

THEN STUFF THESE BALLS OF MEAT IN DOUGHS OF FLOUR, ABOUT THE SIZE OF HUMAN HEADS.

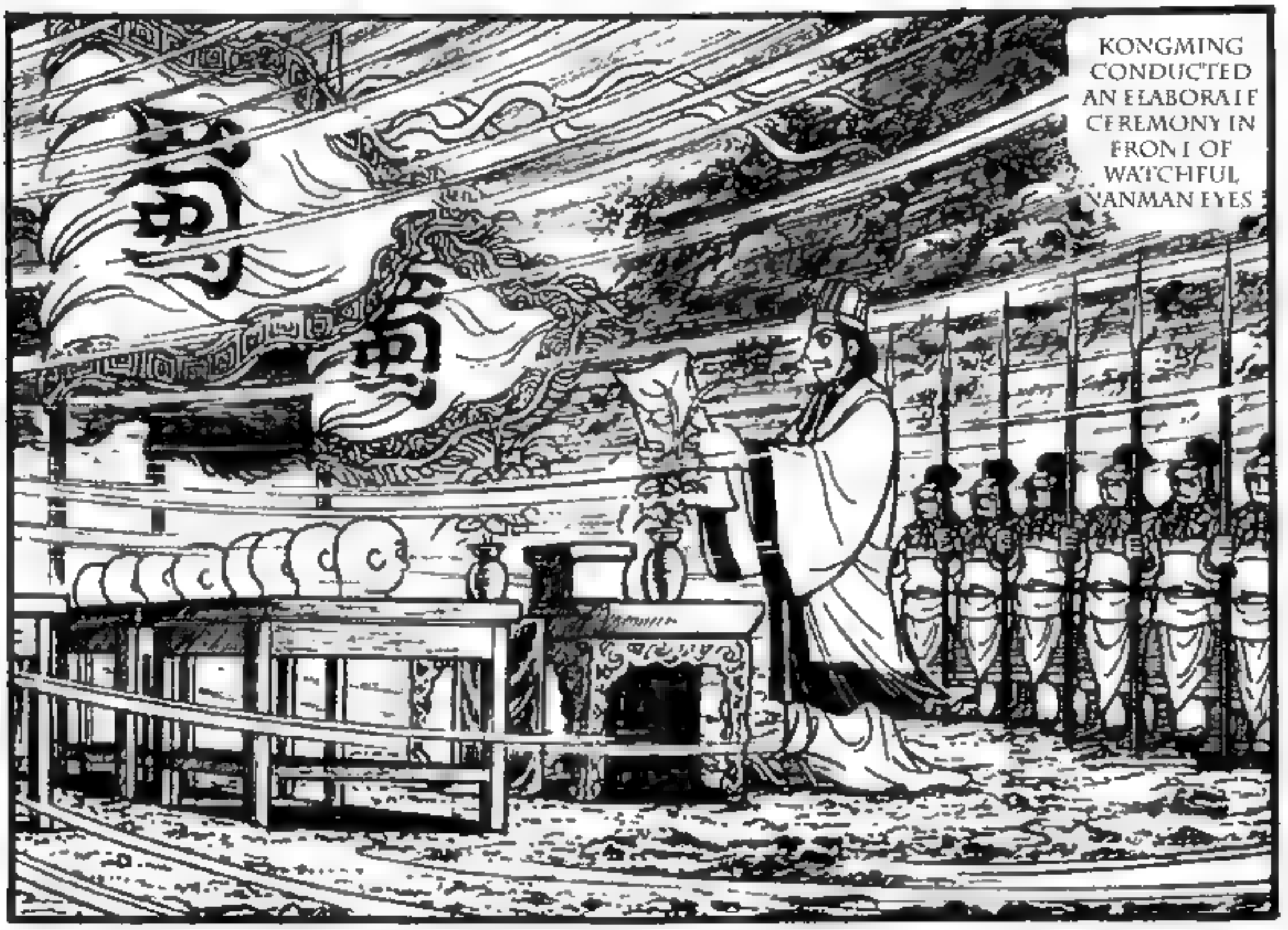
WORK WITH THE OTHER COOKS AND HAVE THEM ALL PREPARED BY TOMORROW MORNING.

YES, SIR.

HE ALREADY COLLECTED THE SACRIFICES?
THE CHANCELLOR SAYS HE WILL PRESENT OFFERINGS TO THE RIVER SPIRITS SHORTLY, SO YOU SHOULD COME ATTEND THE CEREMONY.
LET'S HEAD OUT, MEN!



*MAN (蛮) = BARBARIAN; TOU (頭) = HEAD. HENCE, MANTOU IS LITERALLY BARBARIAN'S HEAD



AT THE END, THESE MANTOU WERE THEN DUMPED INTO THE RIVER

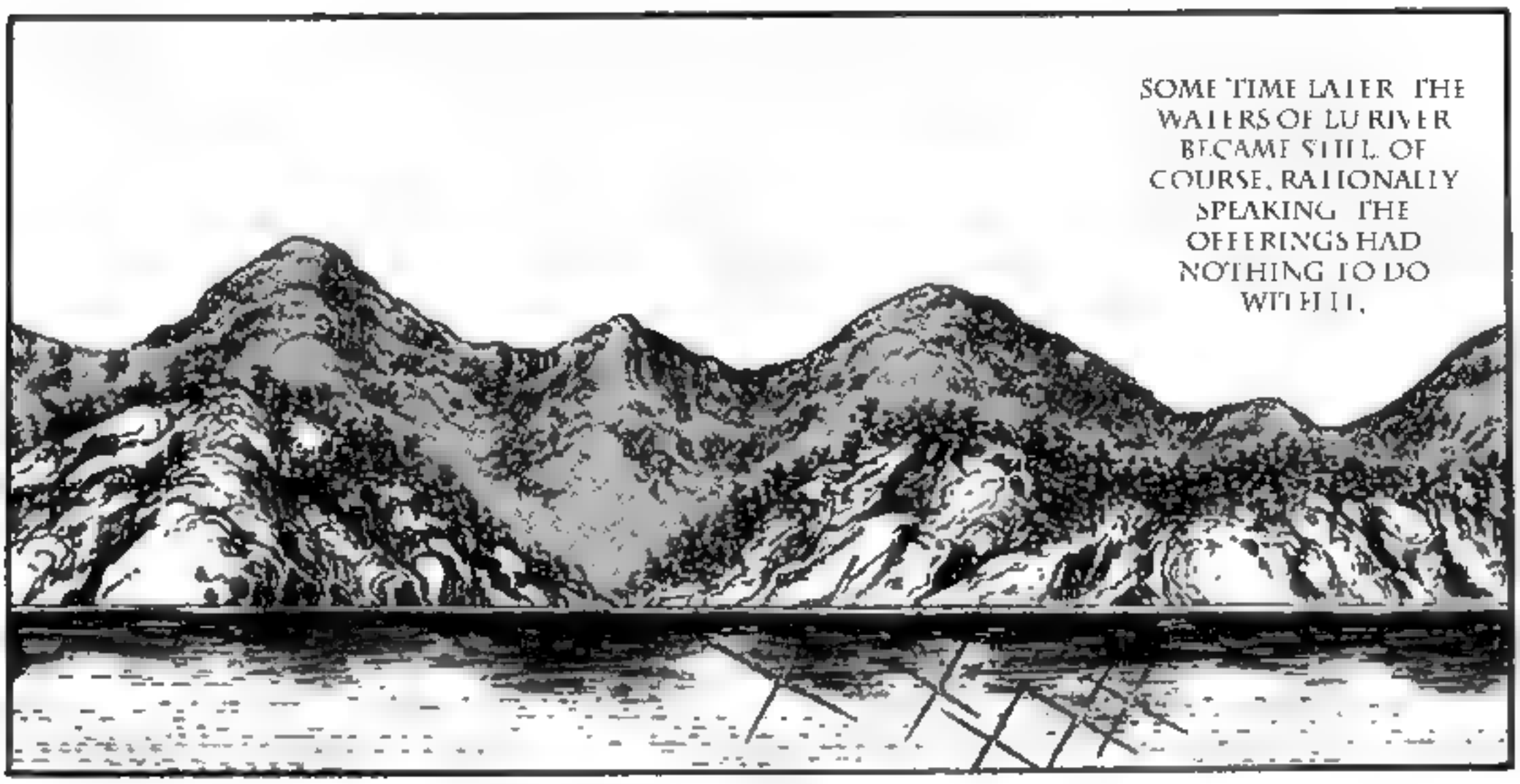
I WAS NOT AWARE SUCH A METHOD EXISTED TO APPEASE SPIRITS, SIR.

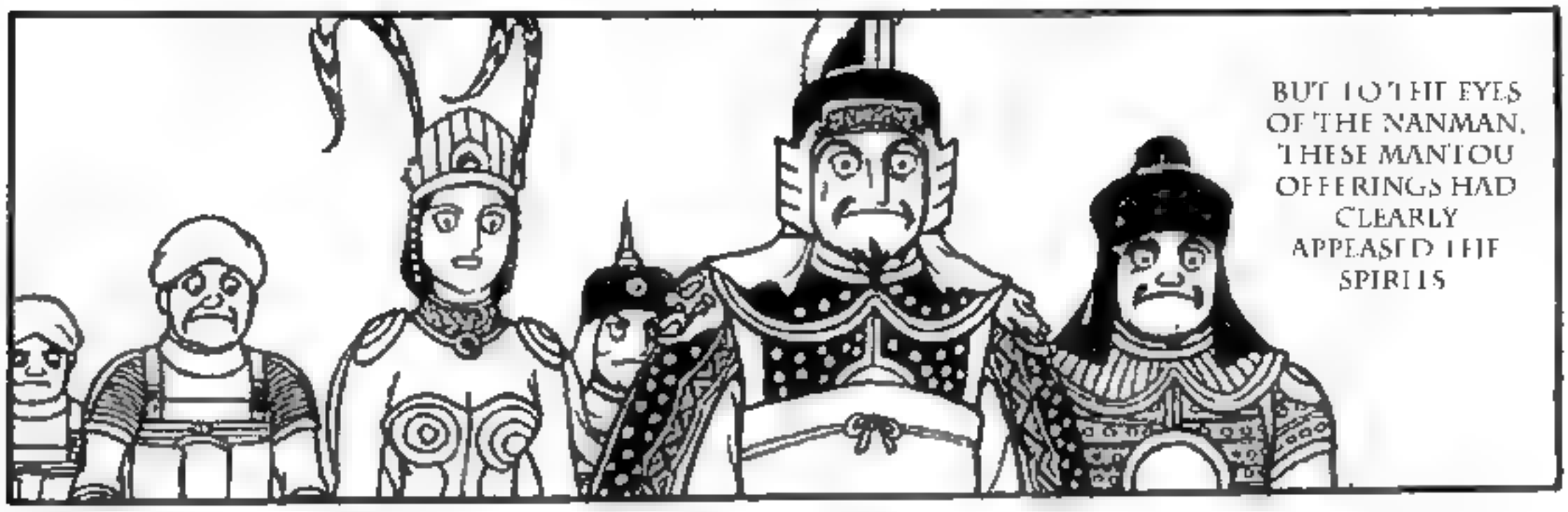
NOW JUST WAIT A LITTLE BIT, AND YOU'LL SEE THE RIVER CALM DOWN, MENG HUO.

THUS IS THE FOLK LEGEND ON THE ORIGIN OF THE NOW POPULAR FOOD, MANTOU

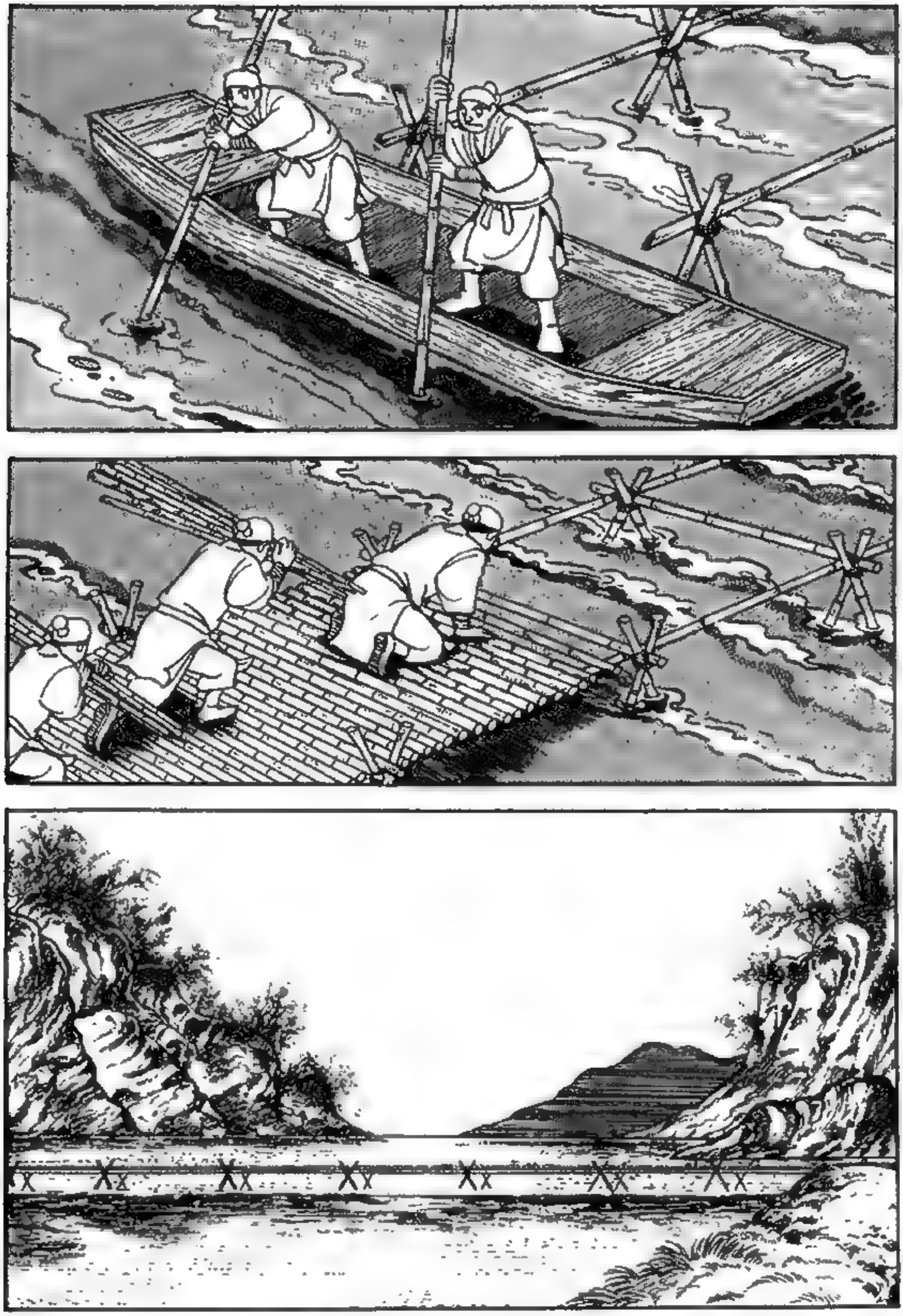
TEACH IT TO ALL YOUR PEOPLE SO THAT LIVE HUMAN SACRIFICE IS NO LONGER NEEDED.

YES.


SOME TIME LATER THE WATERS OF LU RIVER BECAME STILL. OF COURSE, RATIONALLY SPEAKING THE OFFERINGS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.


BUT TO THE EYES OF THE NANMAN, THESE MANTOU OFFERINGS HAD CLEARLY APPEASED THE SPIRITS

YES, SIR.
START THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES.



GOOD, WE CAN FINALLY CROSS THEN.

THE PONTOON BRIDGES ARE COMPLETE, SIR.

MENG HUO, THANK YOU FOR ESCORTING ME THIS FAR. YOU MAY NOW RETURN.

I BEAR A HEAVY DEBT TO THE CHANCELLOR AND I WISH TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT.

FARTHER?

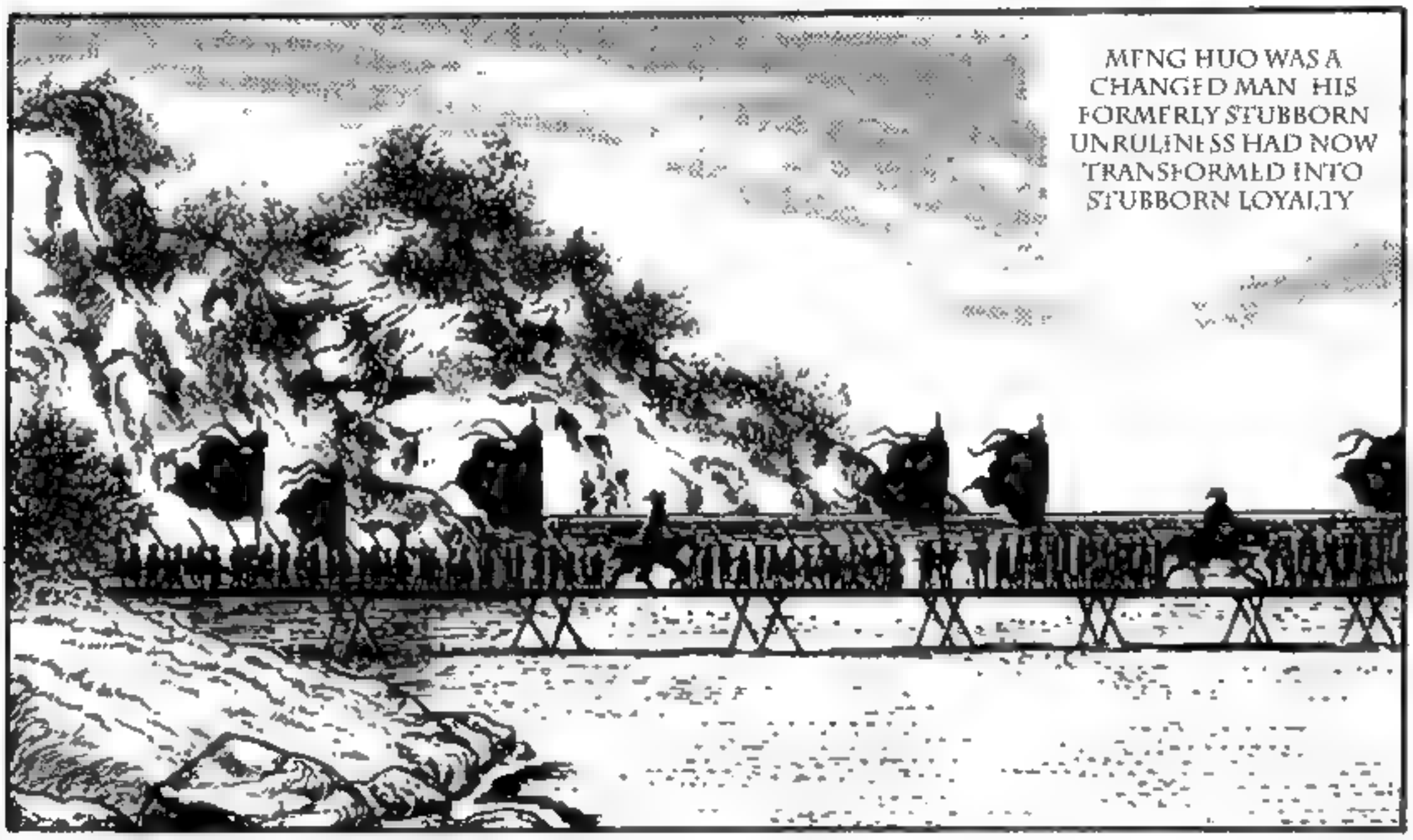
MAY I PLEASE ESCORT YOU JUST A LITTLE FARTHER?

YES, BUT PLEASE, SIR. ALLOW ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU JUST A LITTLE FARTHER.

BUT YOU HAVE A LAND TO RULE OVER, DO YOU NOT?

THANK YOU, CHANCELLOR.
OH VERY WELL, YOU MAY ACCOMPANY ME TO YONG-CHANG.

STUBBORN AS EVER, MENG HUO


MENG HUO WAS A CHANGED MAN HIS FORMERLY STUBBORN UNRULINESS HAD NOW TRANSFORMED INTO STUBBORN LOYALTY

THANK YOU, SIR.

LU KAI, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LONG SERVICE DURING THIS HARROWING CAMPAIGN. I WILL INFORM THE EMPEROR OF YOUR GREAT SERVICE AND SEE THAT YOU ARE JUSTLY REWARDED.

YES?

MENG HUO.

THEN RETURN SOUTH AND SEE THAT THE NANMAN ARE GOVERNED JUSTLY.

YES... YES, I DID.

YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD DEPART ONCE WE REACHED YONGCHANG, DID YOU NOT?

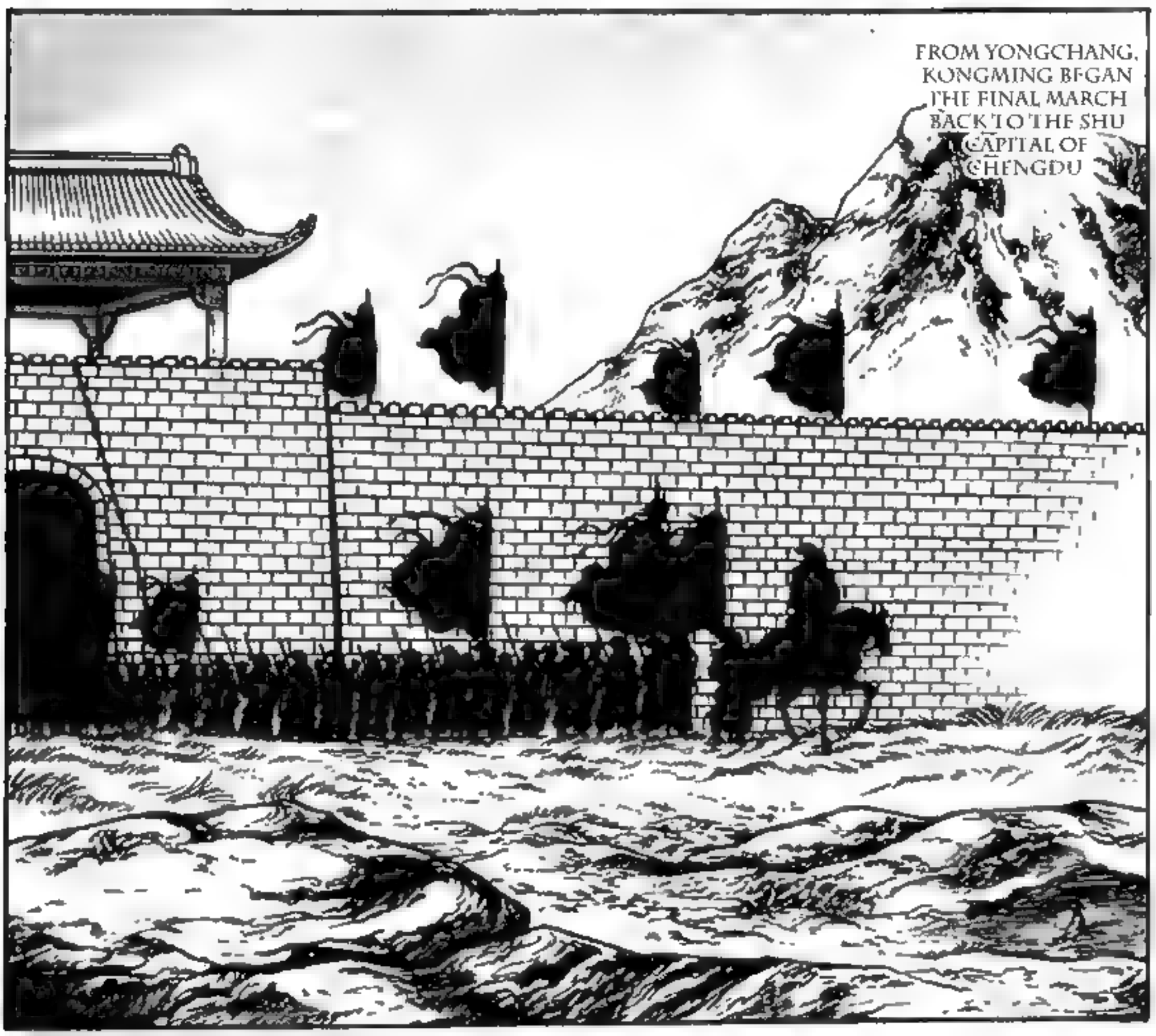
YES, YOU HAVE MY WORD, SIR.

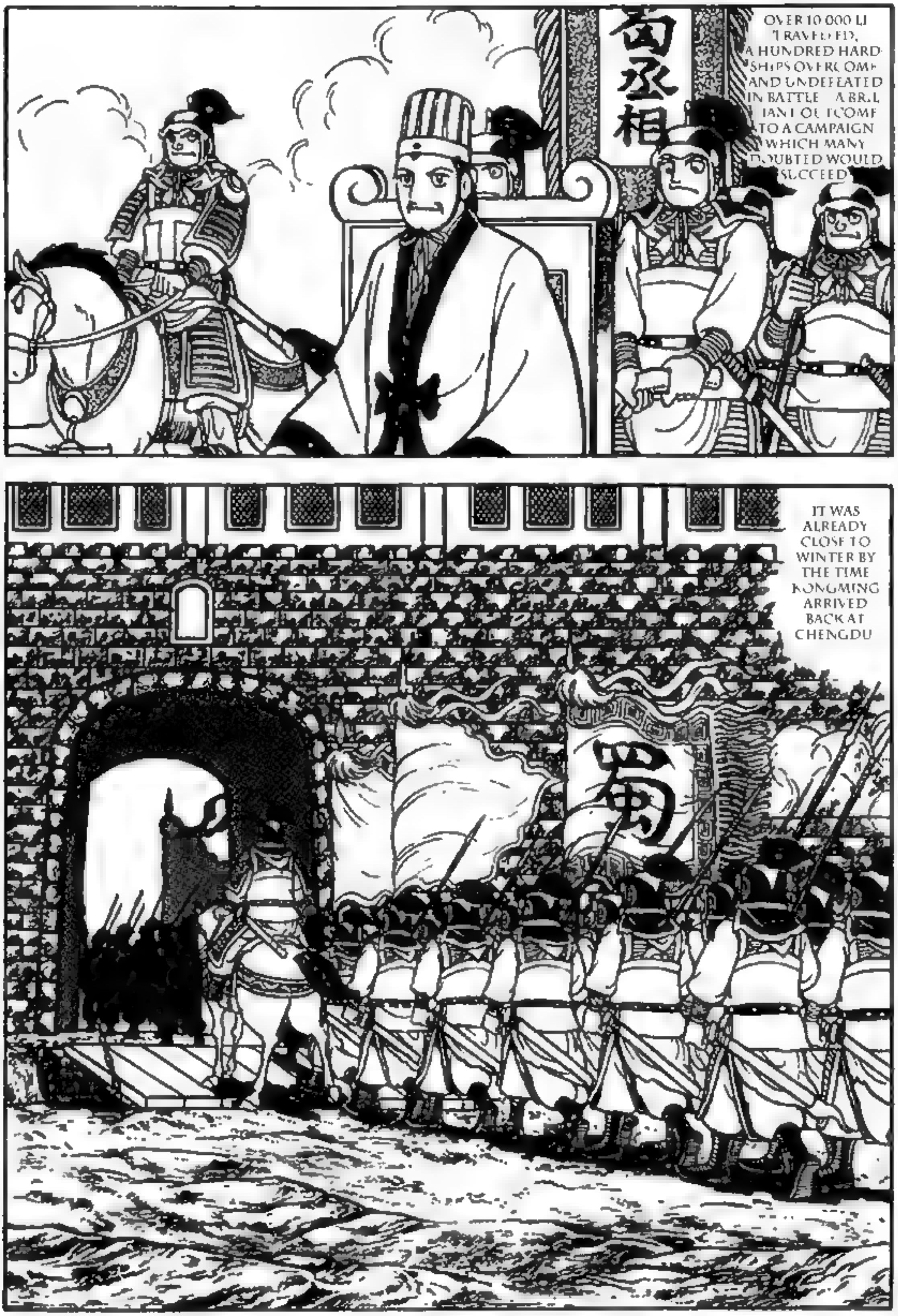
TAKE CARE.

THEN I WILL REGRETTABLY EXCUSE MYSELF NOW...

CERTAINLY.
AS LONG AS MENG HUO LIVES, THE NANMAN WILL NEVER BE A PROBLEM AGAIN.

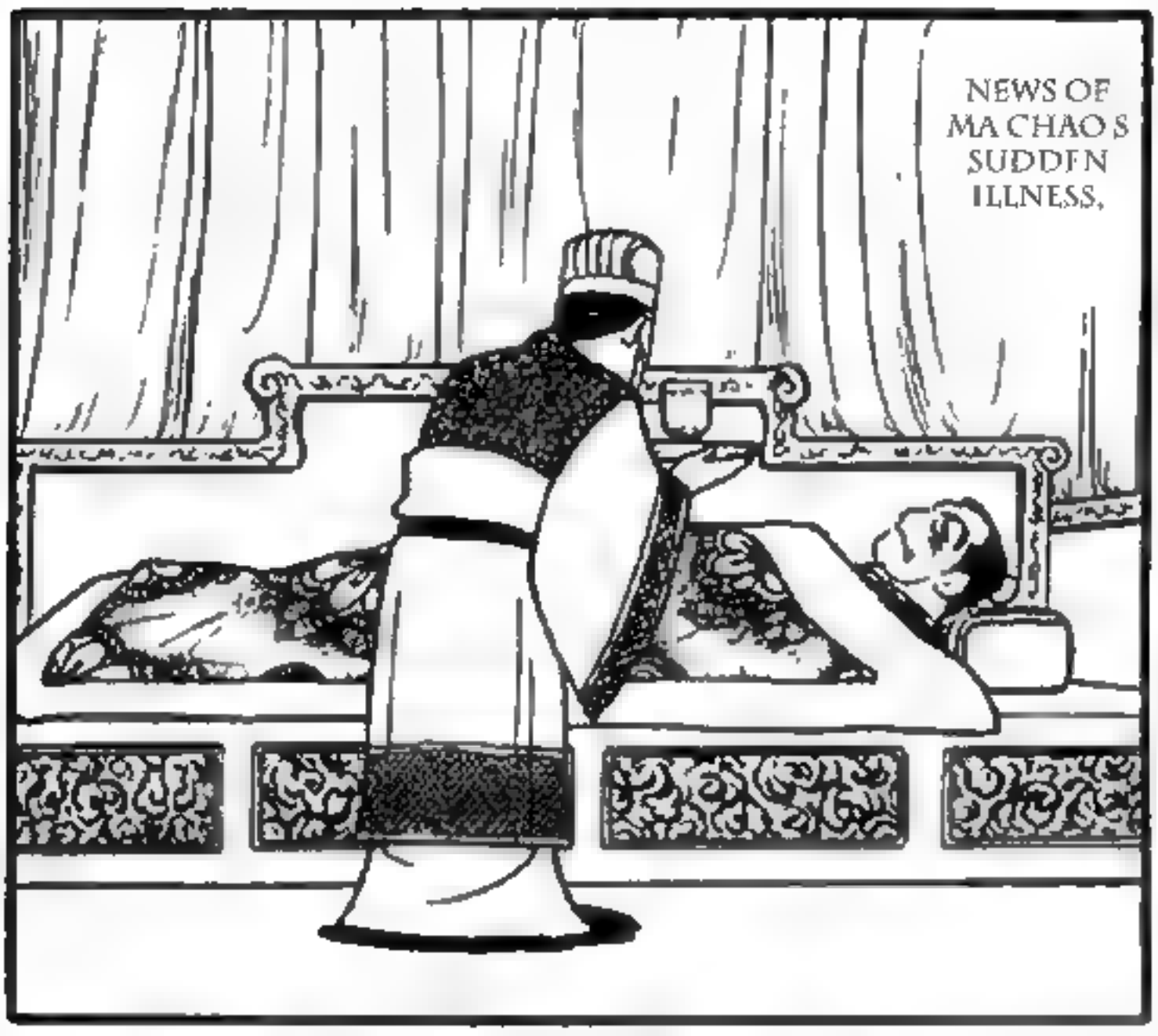
SNIFF

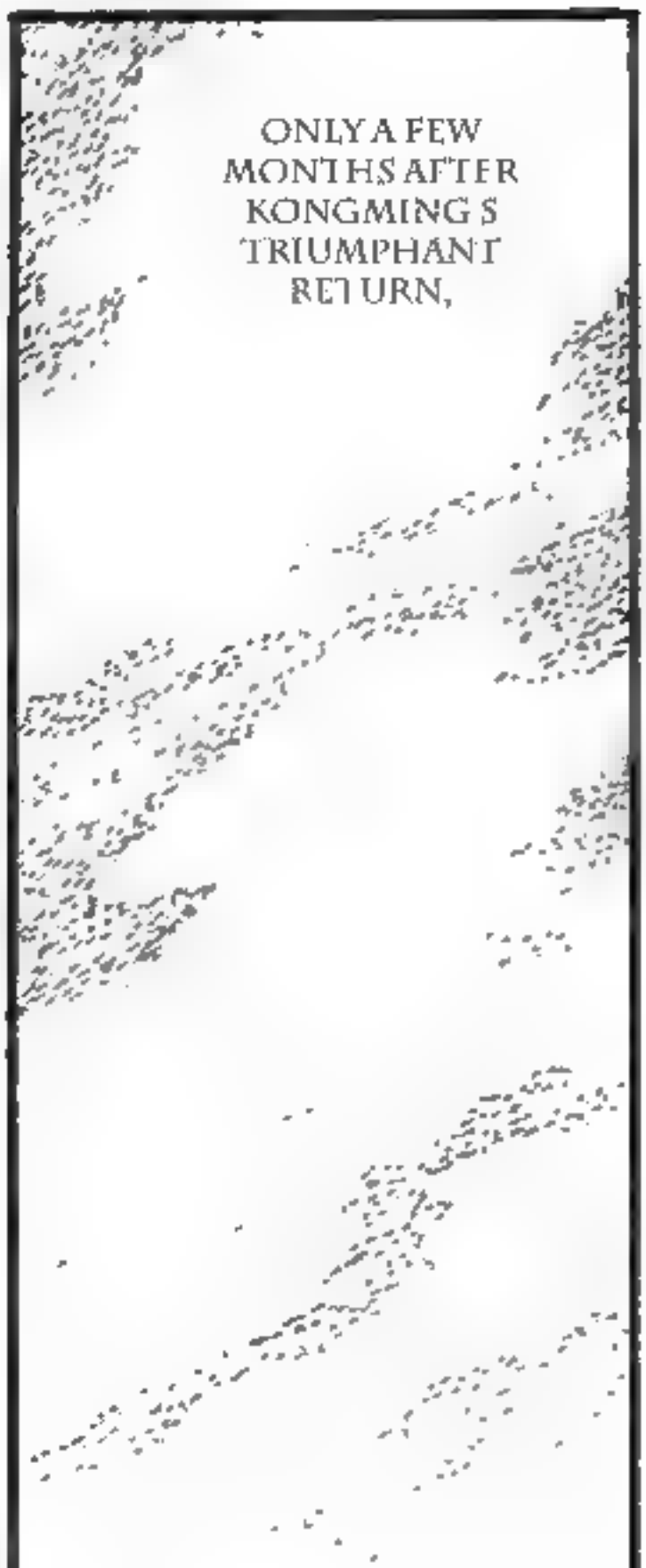

FROM YONGCHANG, KONGMING BEGAN THE FINAL MARCH BACK TO THE SHU CAPITAL OF CHENGDU

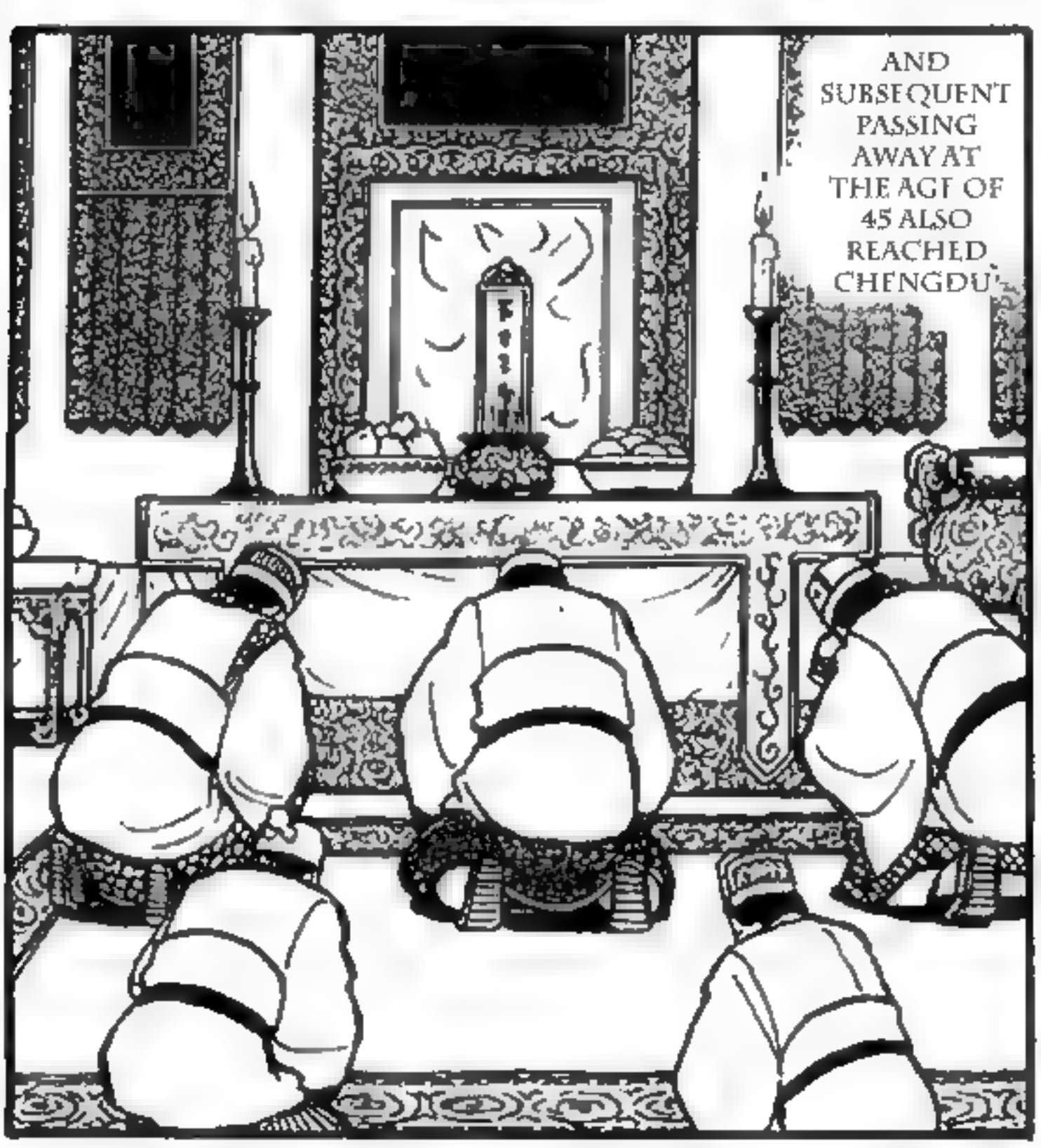

丞相
OVER 10 000 LI
TRAVELLED,
A HUNDRED HARD-
SHIPS OVERCOME
AND UNDEFEATED
IN BATTLE A BRIL
IANT OUTCOME
TO A CAMPAIGN
WHICH MANY
DOUBTED WOULD
SUCCEED
IT WAS
ALREADY
CLOSE TO
WINTER BY
THE TIME
KONGMING
ARRIVED
BACK AT
CHENGDU
蜀

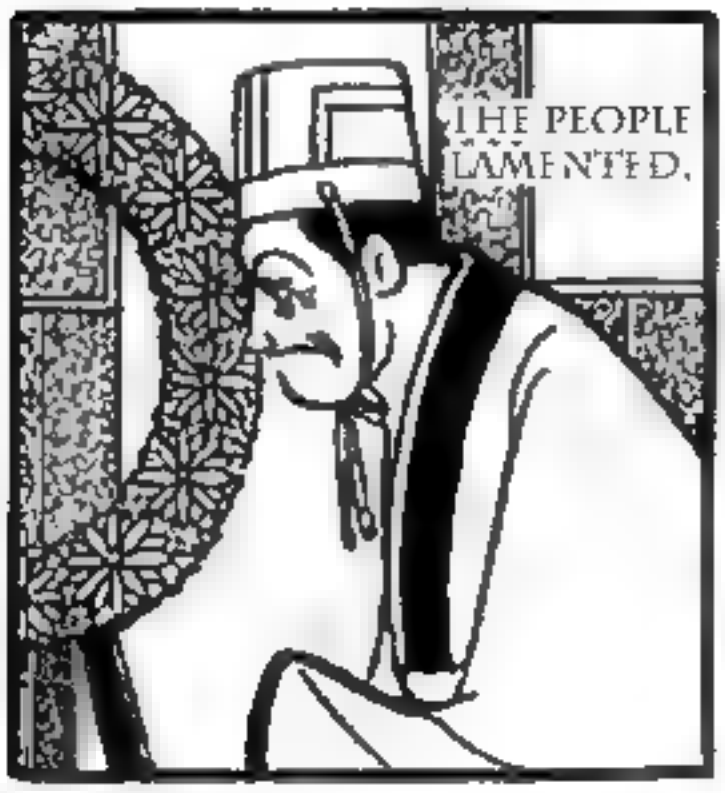
BUT THE COLD WEATHER DID NOTHING TO DAMPEN THE WARM WELCOME BY THE CITIZENS FOR THEIR RETURNING VICTORIOUS TROOPS

MANIFESTO

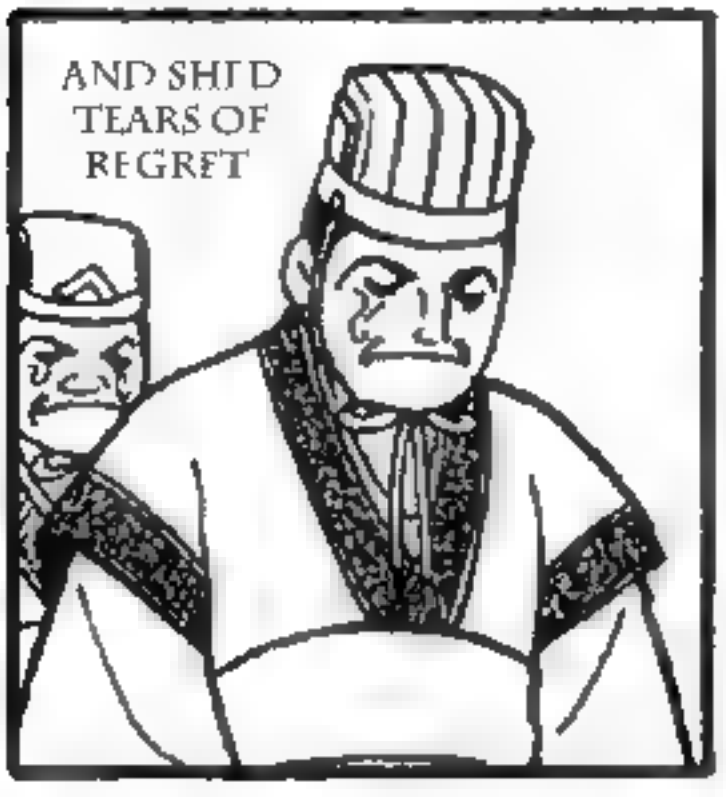

NEWS OF MA CHAO S SUDDEN ILLNESS,

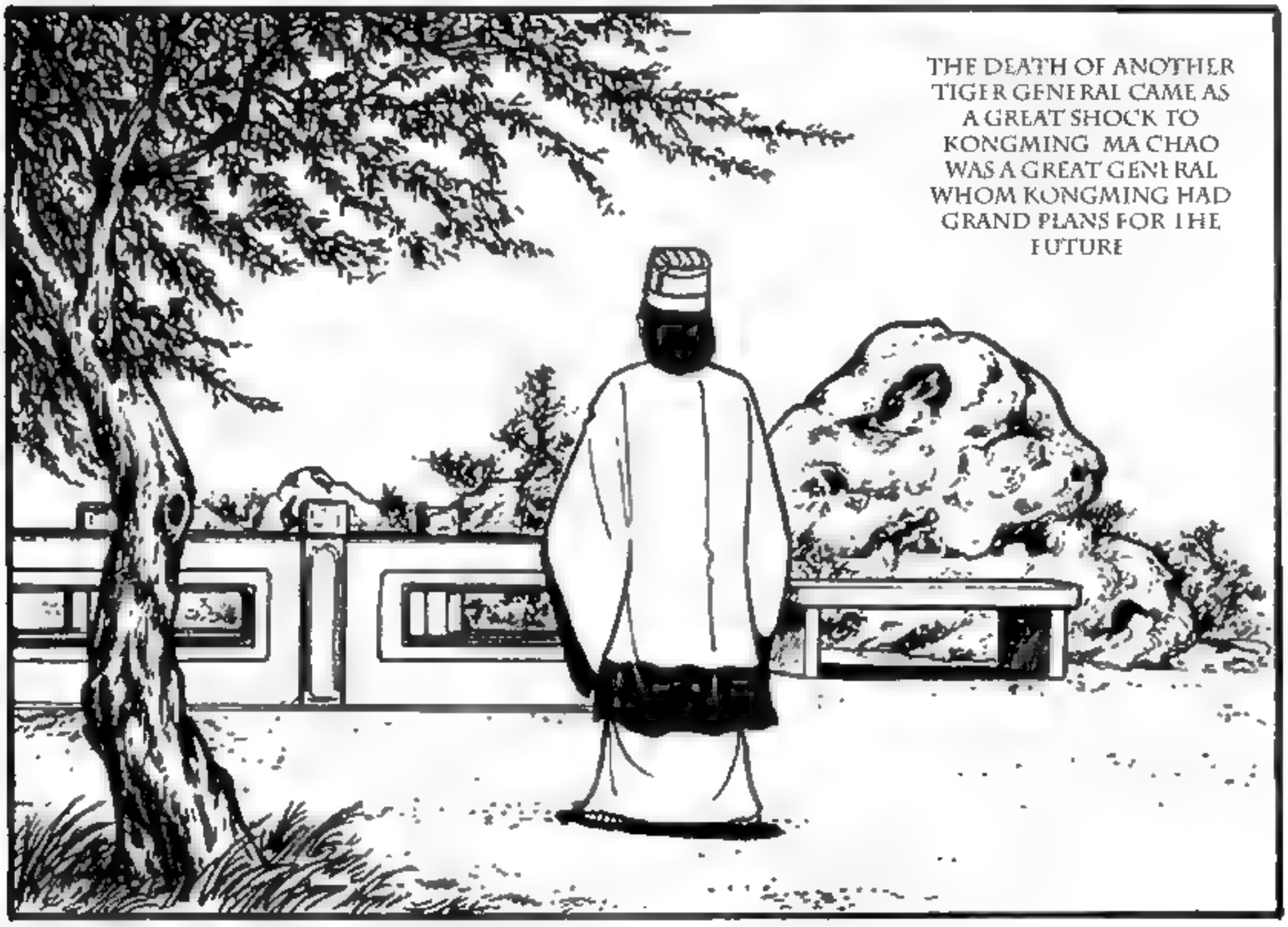

ONLY A FEW MONTHS AFTER KONGMING S TRIUMPHANT RETURN,


AND SUBSEQUENT PASSING AWAY AT THE AGE OF 45 ALSO REACHED CHENGDU

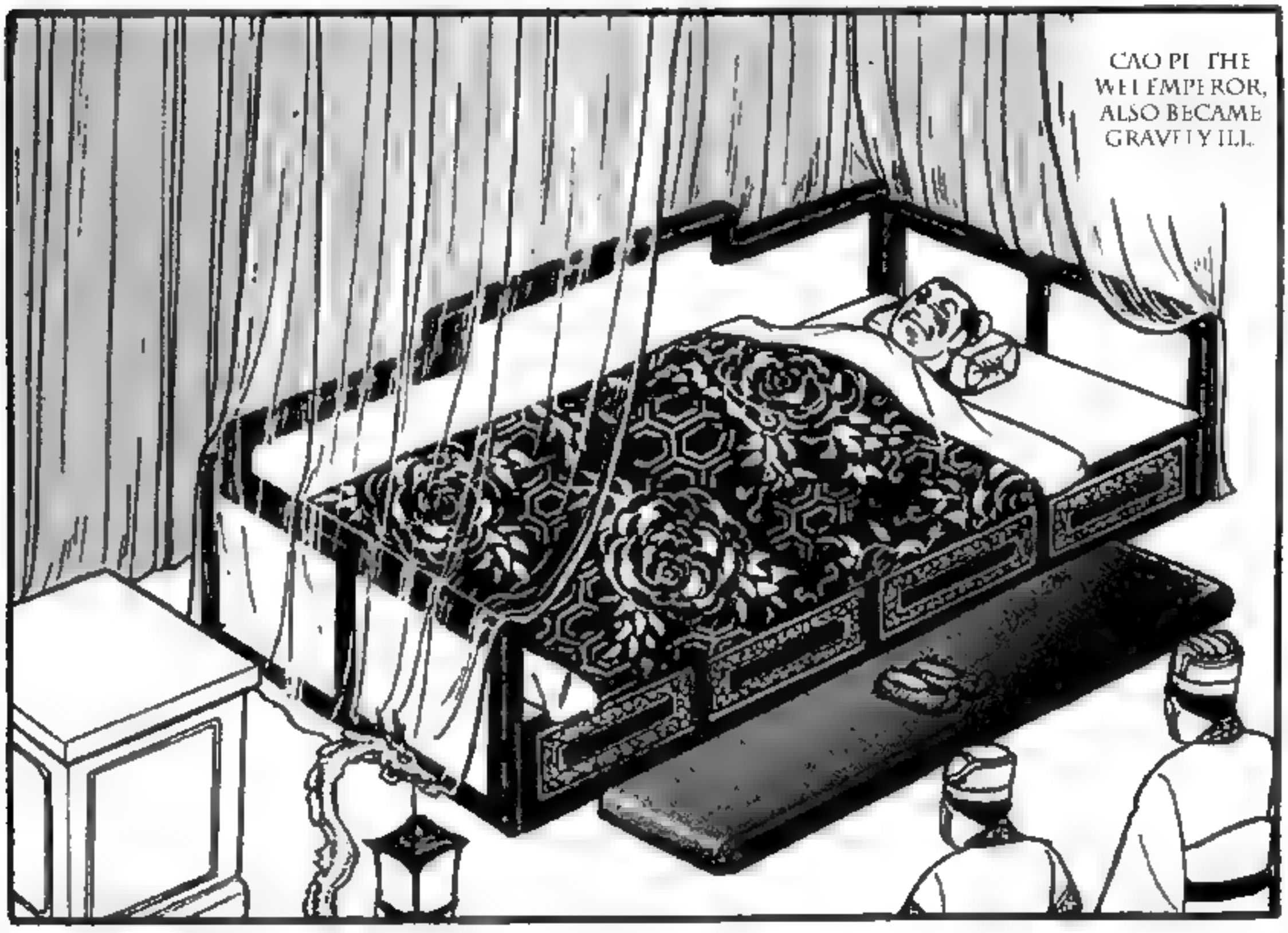

THE PEOPLE LAMENTED.

REMEMBERING HIS PAST FEATS OF BRAVERY AND MIGHT.


AND SHED TEARS OF REGRET


THE DEATH OF ANOTHER TIGER GENERAL CAME AS A GREAT SHOCK TO KONGMING MA CHAO WAS A GREAT GENERAL WHOM KONGMING HAD GRAND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

IN THE FIFTH MONTH OF THAT SAME YEAR (226 AD),


CAO PI THE WEI EMPEROR, ALSO BECAME GRAVELY ILL.

AND CHEN QUN...?

Y-YES!

CAO ZHEN... ARE YOU THERE...?

HERE AS WELL.

SIMA YI?

I AM HERE, YOUR MAJESTY.

DO NOT LOSE HOPE, YOUR MAJESTY. YOU WILL RECOVER IN DUE TIME.

I FEAR I AM DONE FOR. MY EYES ARE ALREADY DIM AND I CAN HARDLY SEE...

WHAT IS IT, YOUR MAJESTY?

I'D LIKE TO REQUEST A FAVOUR FROM YOU THREE...

SWEAR BEFORE ME NOW THAT YOU WILL SEE HIM SUCCEED AFTER ME, AND THAT YOU WILL WORK TOGETHER TO HELP HIM TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES.

I WISH FOR MY SON, CAO RUI, TO SUCCEED AFTER MY PASSING... HOWEVER, HE IS STILL YOUNG AND REQUIRES ALL YOUR HELP TO GOVERN THIS REALM.

AND AS HIS LOYAL SERVANTS, WE WILL SERVE HIM DUTIFULLY.

THAT CAO RUI WILL BE OUR EMPEROR.

WE SWEAR,

YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE STOP THIS OMINOUS TALK.

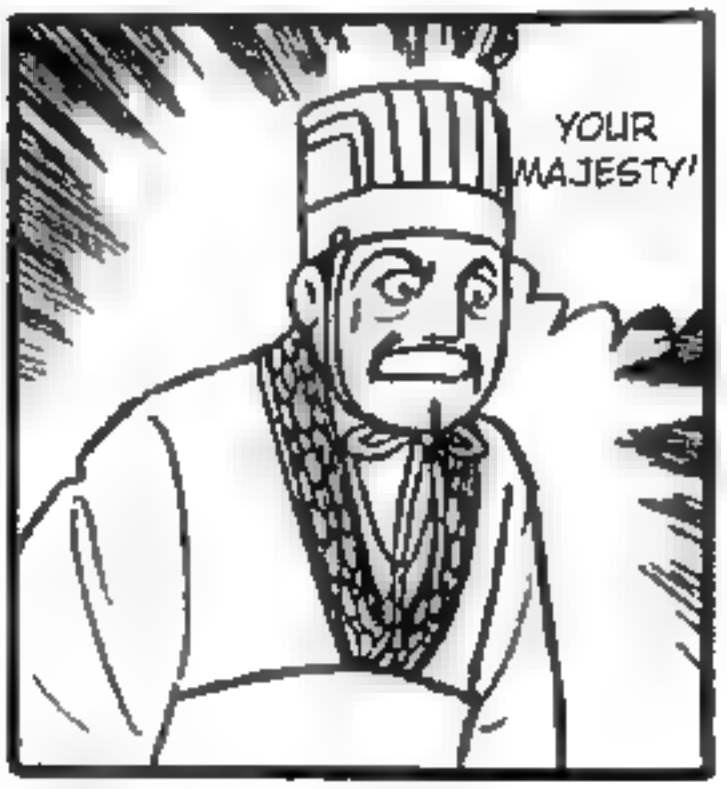
AND WITH THAT, I CAN LEAVE THIS WORLD WITHOUT WORRIES...

YOU ARE STILL YOUNG AND HAVE MANY YEARS BEFORE YOU.

ㅎ
ㄱ

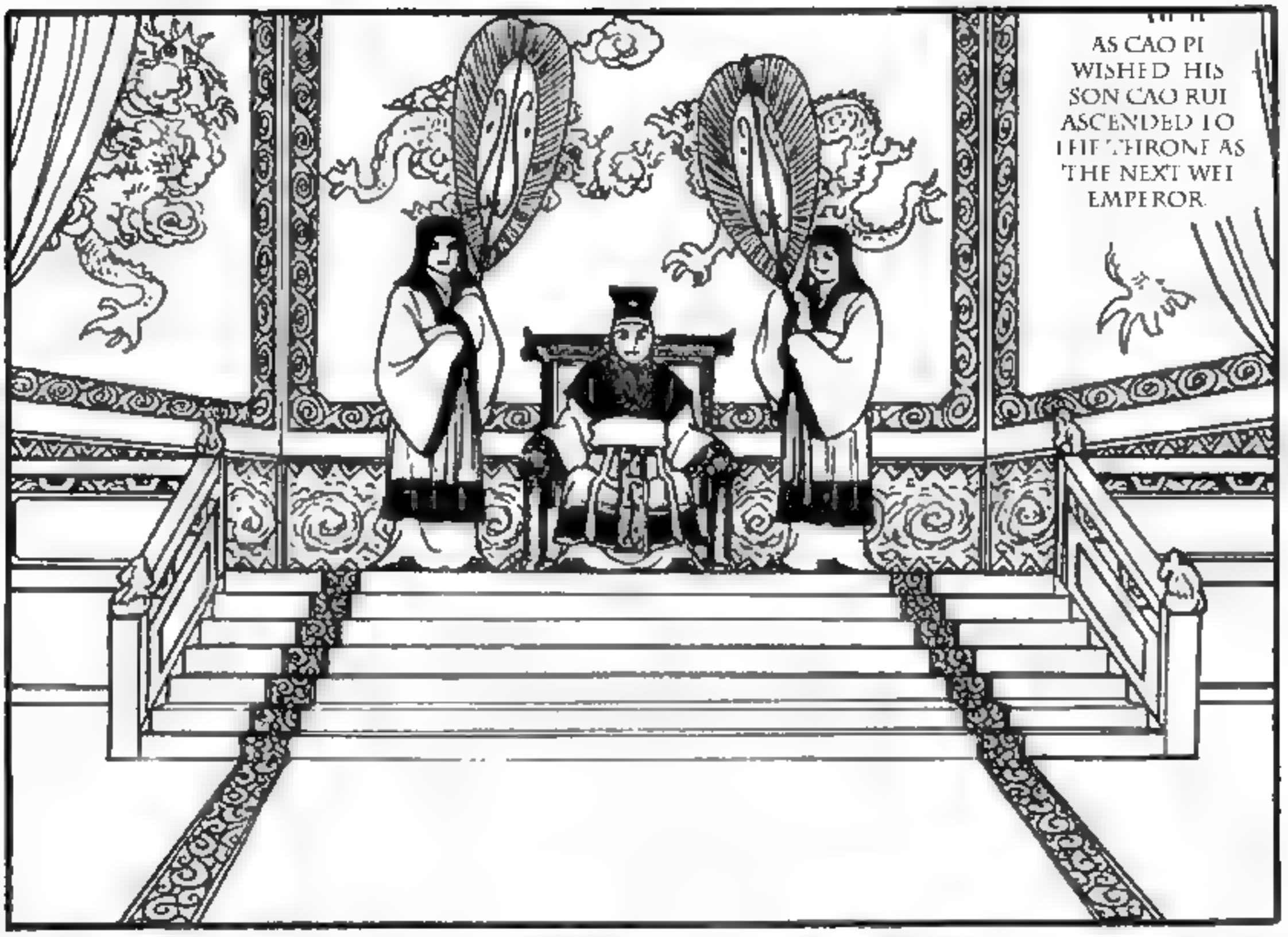
YES.
DOCTOR! PLEASE CHECK HIS MAJESTY'S CONDITION AT ONCE!

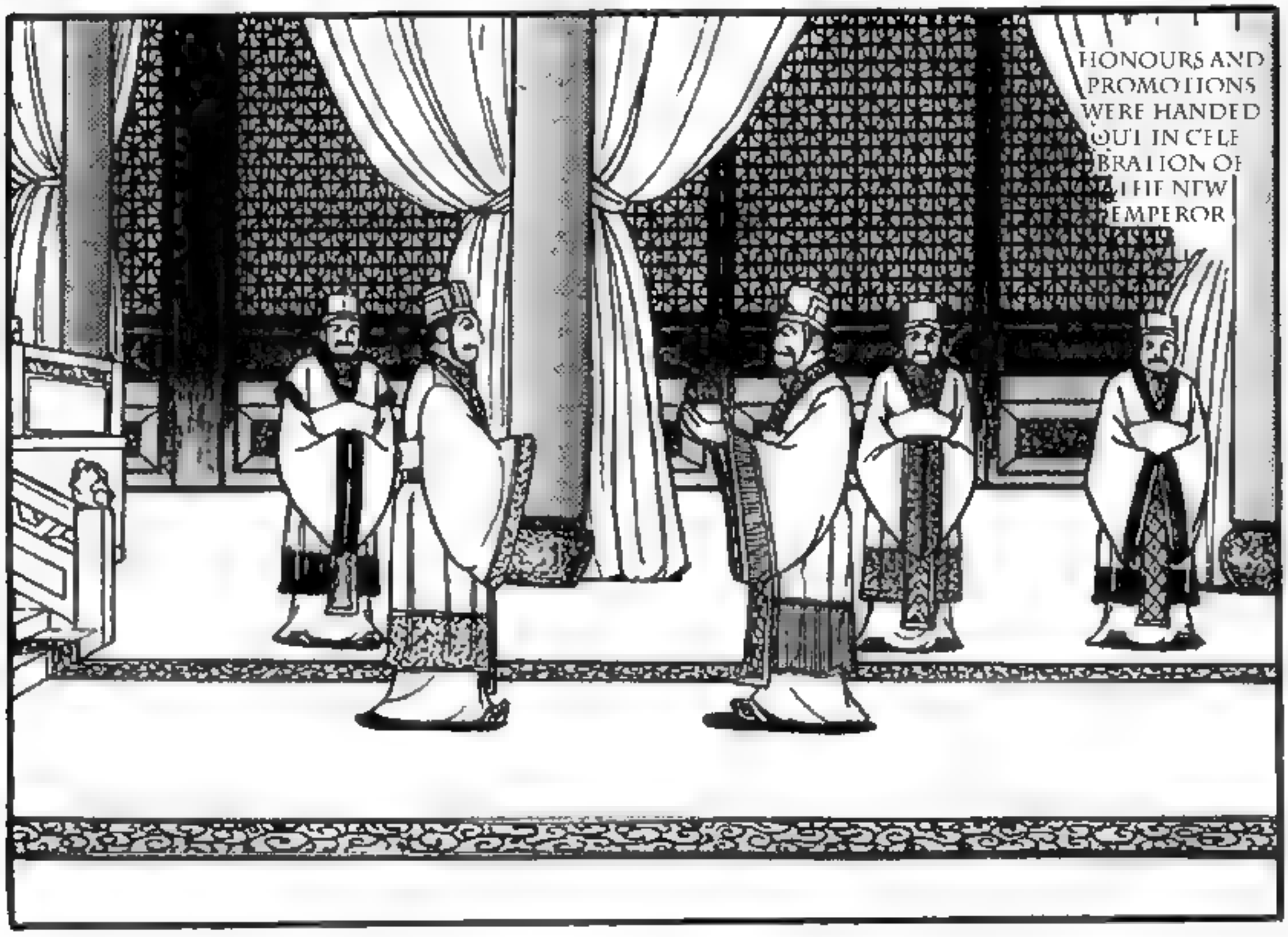
YOUR MAJESTY!?


YOUR MAJESTY!

HIS MAJESTY... IS REGRET-TABLY NO MORE...

NO!
IT CAN'T BE!
WHAT!?
THUS WAS THE PITIFUL END FOR THE FIRST WEI EMPEROR. HIS REIGN HAD LASTED ONLY 7 YEARS, AND HE PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 40


AS CAO PI WISHED HIS SON CAO RUI ASCENDED TO THE THRONE AS THE NEXT WEI EMPEROR.


HONOURS AND PROMOTIONS WERE HANDED OUT IN CELE BRATION OF THE NTW EMPEROR

WOULD YOUR MAJESTY BE KIND ENOUGH TO GRANT THIS SERVANT A SELFISH REQUEST?

THE EMINENT STATESMAN SIMA YI ZHONGDA, WHO WOULD LATER LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE JIN DYNASTY THROUGH A COUP D'ETAT WAS PROMOTED TO IMPERIAL COMMANDER OF THE FLYING CAVALRY ON THIS OCCASION

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMAND THE DEFENSE OF XIJIANG.

WHAT SORT OF REQUEST?

WHAT!?

HENCE, I BELIEVE SECURING OUR WESTERN FRONTIERS IS CRUCIAL FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR EMPIRE.

THE REGIONS AROUND XILIANG HAVE BEEN PRONE TO REBELLIONS OR INVASIONS IN THE PAST, SUCH AS THE CASE OF MA TENG AND HIS SON, MA CHAO.

YOU WISH TO GO ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE REMOTE WESTERN FRONTIERS?

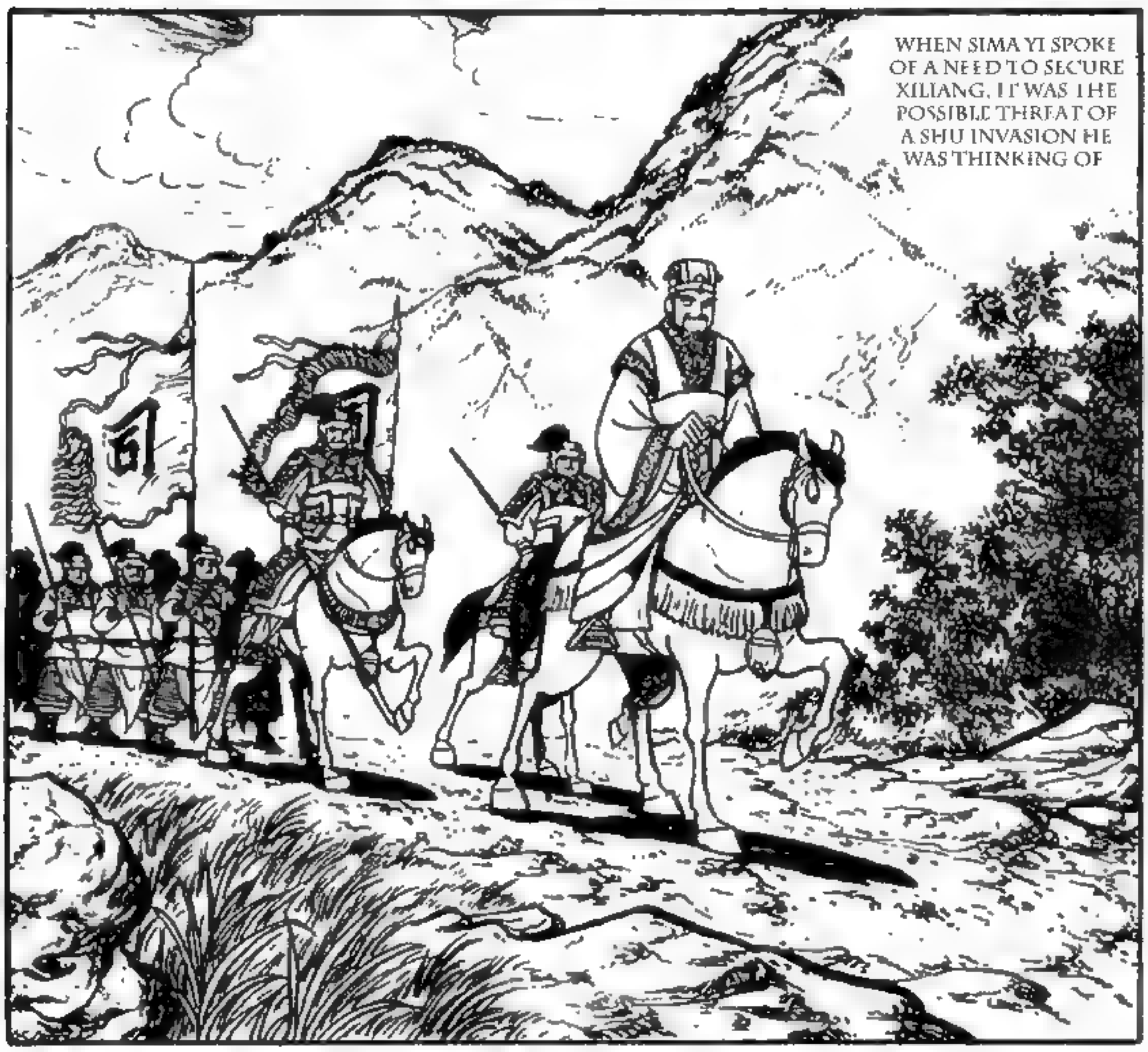
EVEN SO... WHO'D WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE SO REMOTE?

HMPH, WHAT A WEIRDO...

AS I AM NOW A SERVANT OF THREE GENERATIONS OF WEI EMPERORS, I BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO TAKE A BIGGER ROLE IN CARING FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR EMPIRE.

I SEE! WELL, IF YOU INSIST ON GOING SO FAR AWAY FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPIRE, I WILL GLADLY PLACE YOU IN CHARGE OF XILIANG.

YES, TAKE CARE.
I AM HONOURED TO RECEIVE THE POST. I WILL THEN DEPART AT ONCE TO SECURE OUR FRONTIERS.


WHEN SIMA YI SPOKE OF A NEED TO SECURE XILIANG, IT WAS THE POSSIBLE THREAT OF A SHU INVASION HE WAS THINKING OF
司

WORD SOON REACHED SHU ABOUT CAO PI'S DEATH

ANYTHING ELSE?

THE ONLY OTHER NOTABLE THING WOULD BE...

YES, OTHER IMPORTANT PROMOTIONS INCLUDE HUA XIN TO GRAND COMMANDANT, WANG LANG TO MINISTER OF MASSES, CHEN QUN TO MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND SIMA YI TO IMPERIAL COMMANDER OF THE FLYING CAVALRY.

I SEE, SO ZHONG YAO IS NOW IMPERIAL GUARDIAN, CAO ZHEN THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AND CAO XIU THE MINISTER OF WAR.

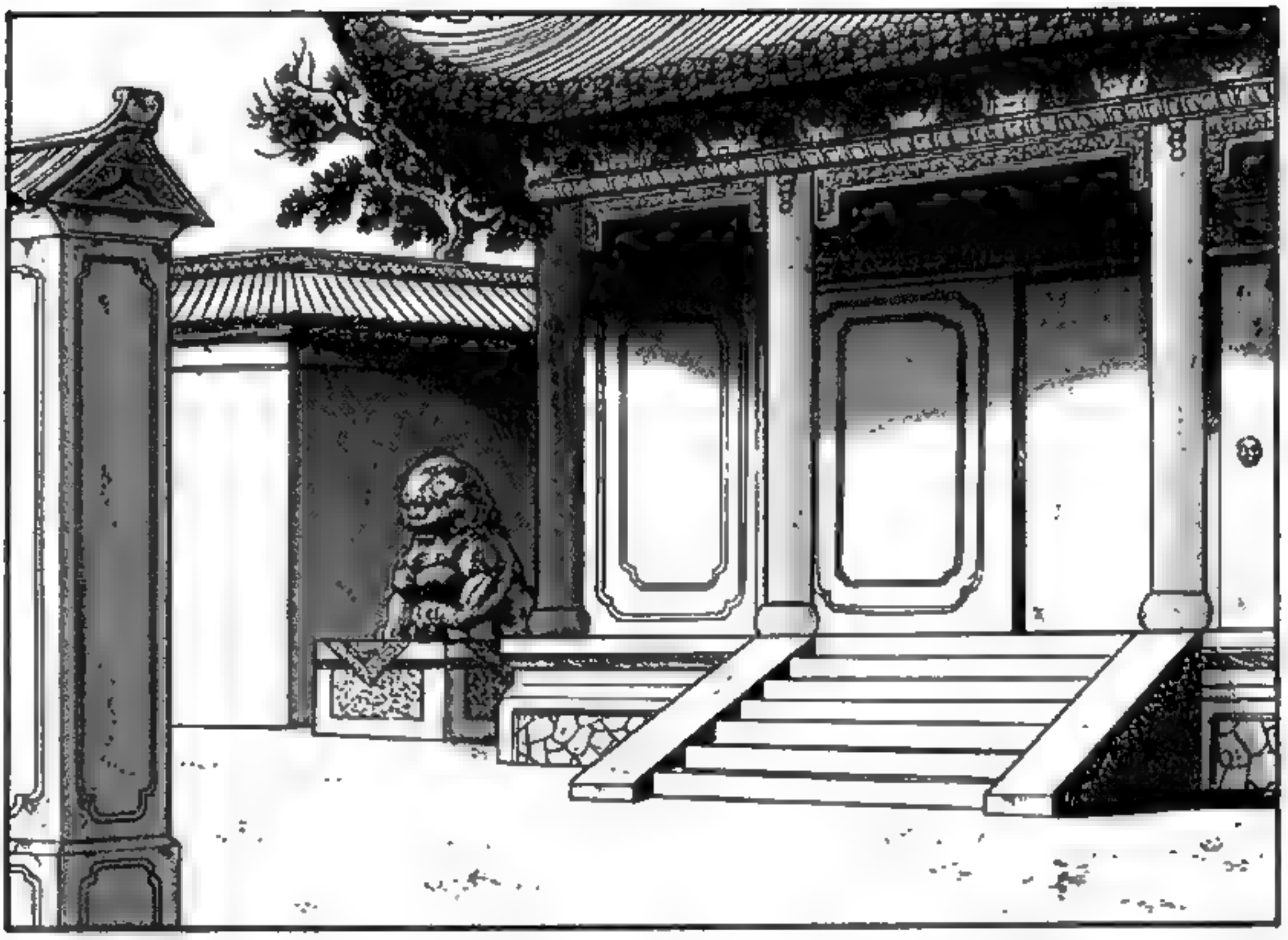
SIMA YI HEADED TO XILIANG!?

SIMA YI WILLINGLY REQUESTED TO GO TO XILIANG TO HEAD ITS DEFENSES.

YES, SIR.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPORTS. YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF NOW.

MNN...

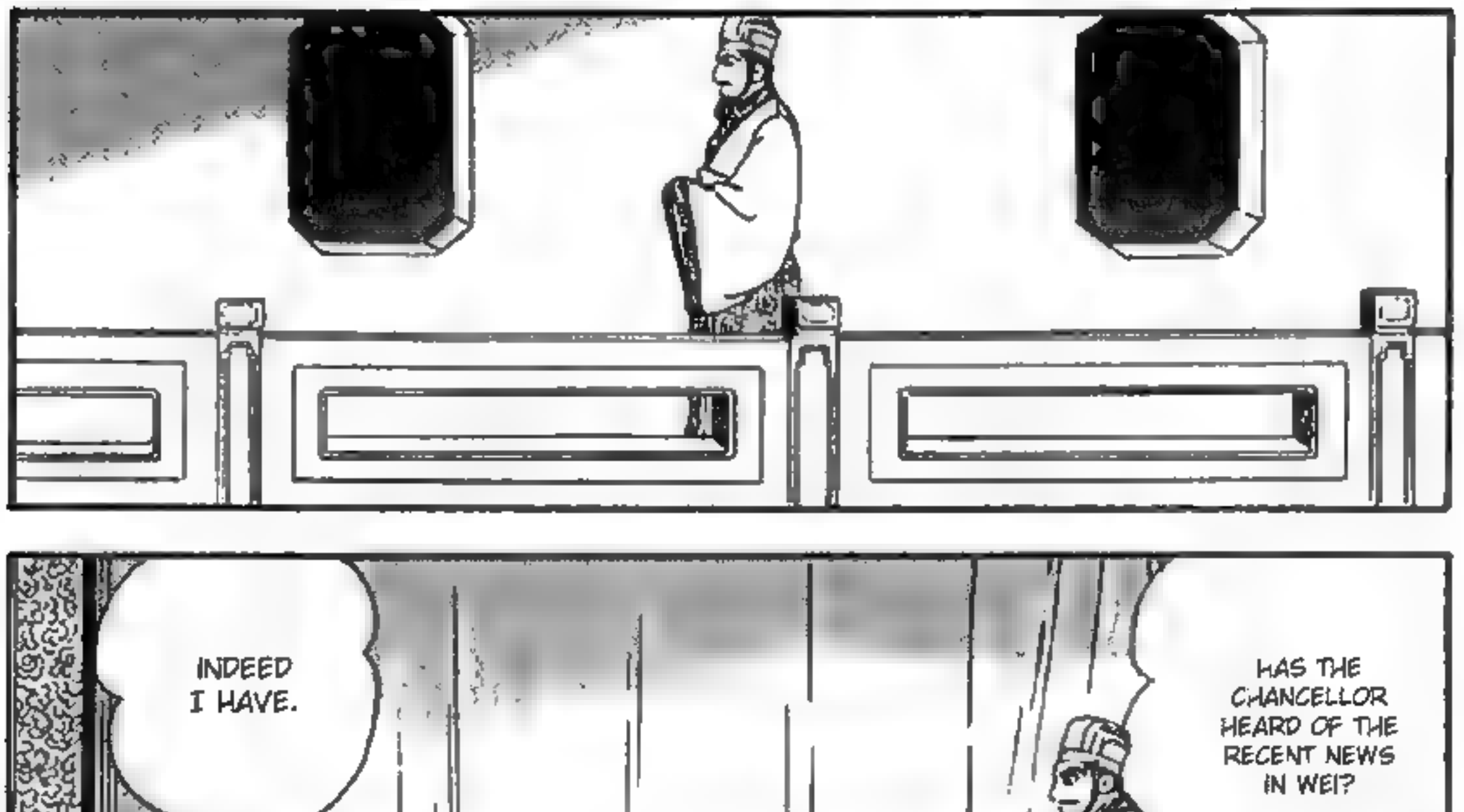
TWO MEN IN SHU WERE GRAVELY DISCONCERTED BY SIMA YI'S NEW APPOINTMENT AT XILIANG. ONE WAS ZHUGE LIANG. THE OTHER WAS MA SU

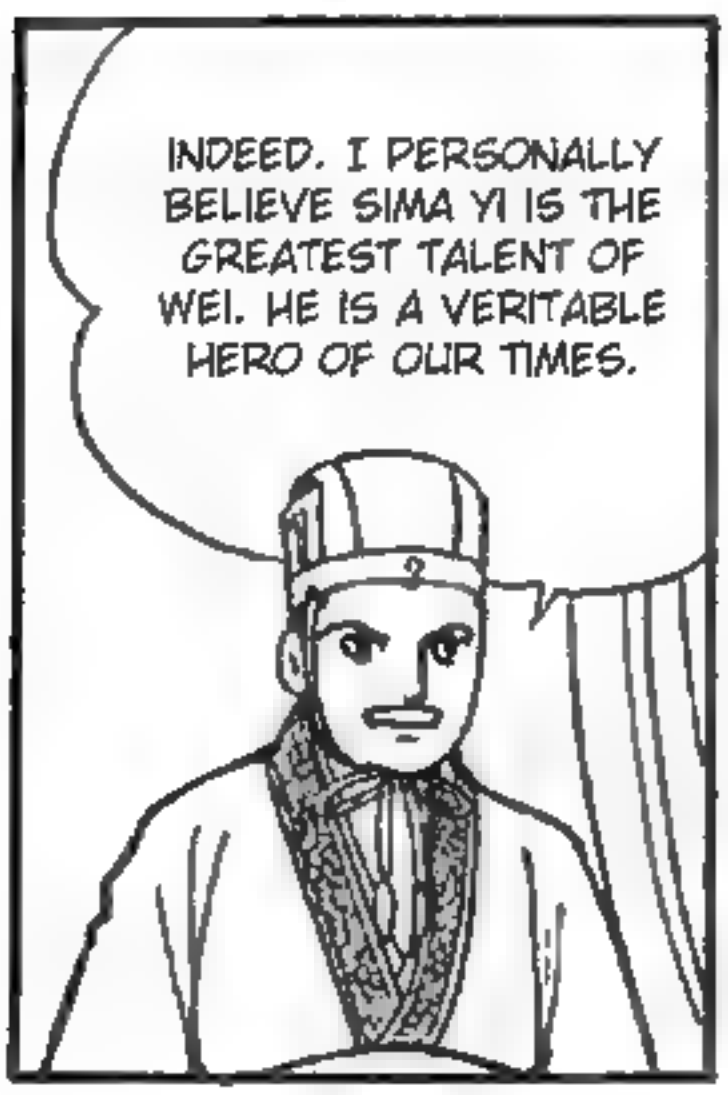


HE MUST HAVE REALIZED THE SIGNIFI-CANCE TOO...

MA SU WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU, MASTER.

LET HIM IN.


INDEED I HAVE.
HAS THE CHANCELLOR HEARD OF THE RECENT NEWS IN WEI?


INDEED. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE SIMA YI IS THE GREATEST TALENT OF WEI. HE IS A VERITABLE HERO OF OUR TIMES.

YOU REFER TO SIMA YI, YES?

THERE IS ONE PIECE OF NEWS THAT TROUBLES ME.

SIMA YI HAS LIKELY ASKED TO BE IN CHARGE OF XILIANG, SO THAT HE CAN TRAIN AND DRILL THE WESTERN ARMY THERE TO HIS STANDARDS. ONCE THAT'S DONE, HE WILL SURELY USE IT AGAINST US...

YES, I THINK THE SAME. IF THERE IS ONE MAN IN WEI WHO POSES A THREAT TO SHU, IT IS HIM.

NO, I DO NOT THINK WE ARE QUITE READY TO LAUNCH ANOTHER MAJOR CAMPAIGN SO SOON AFTER THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD STRIKE BEFORE THEN?

SIMA YI MAY BE A TALENTED STATESMAN WHO'S SERVED THREE GENERATIONS OF WEI RULERS, BUT HIS RANK IS NOT QUITE AS HIGH AS SOME OF HIS PEERS.

OH? PLEASE TELL ME YOUR IDEA THEN.

MOREOVER, THERE MAY BE ANOTHER WAY TO ELIMINATE SIMA YI WITHOUT THE NEED OF RAISING TROOPS.

HM...

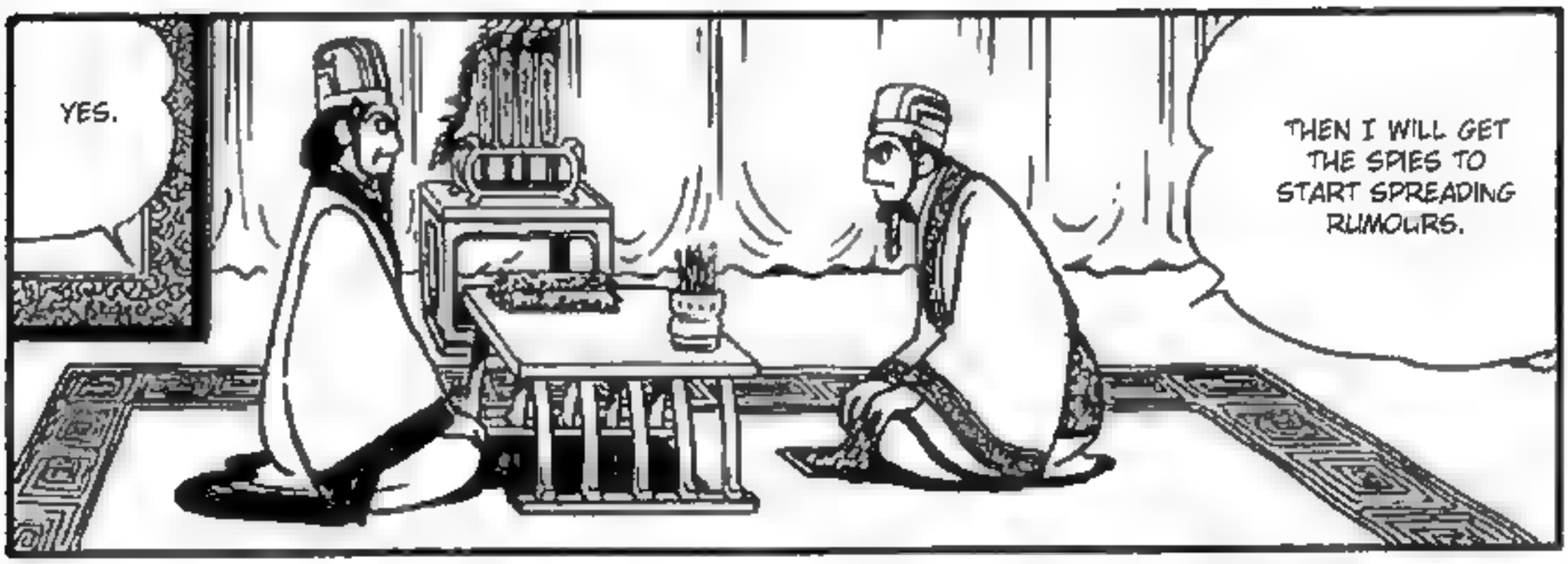
IT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT SIMA YI MAY HAVE WISHED FOR A POST IN XILIANG, NOT JUST TO PREPARE AGAINST SHU, BUT TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM FACTIONAL INTRIGUES AND POWER STRUGGLES IN THE WEI CAPITAL.

THAT BEING THE CASE, MANY HIGH-RANKING WEI MINSTERS MUST ALSO FEEL UNEASY AT SIMA YI'S CURIOUS WILLING-NESS TO REMOVE HIMSELF TO SUCH A REMOTE LOCATION. I PROPOSE WE USE THEIR ANXIOUSNESS BY SPREADING A RUMOUR THAT SIMA YI PLANS TO REBEL USING THE ARMY IN XILIANG.

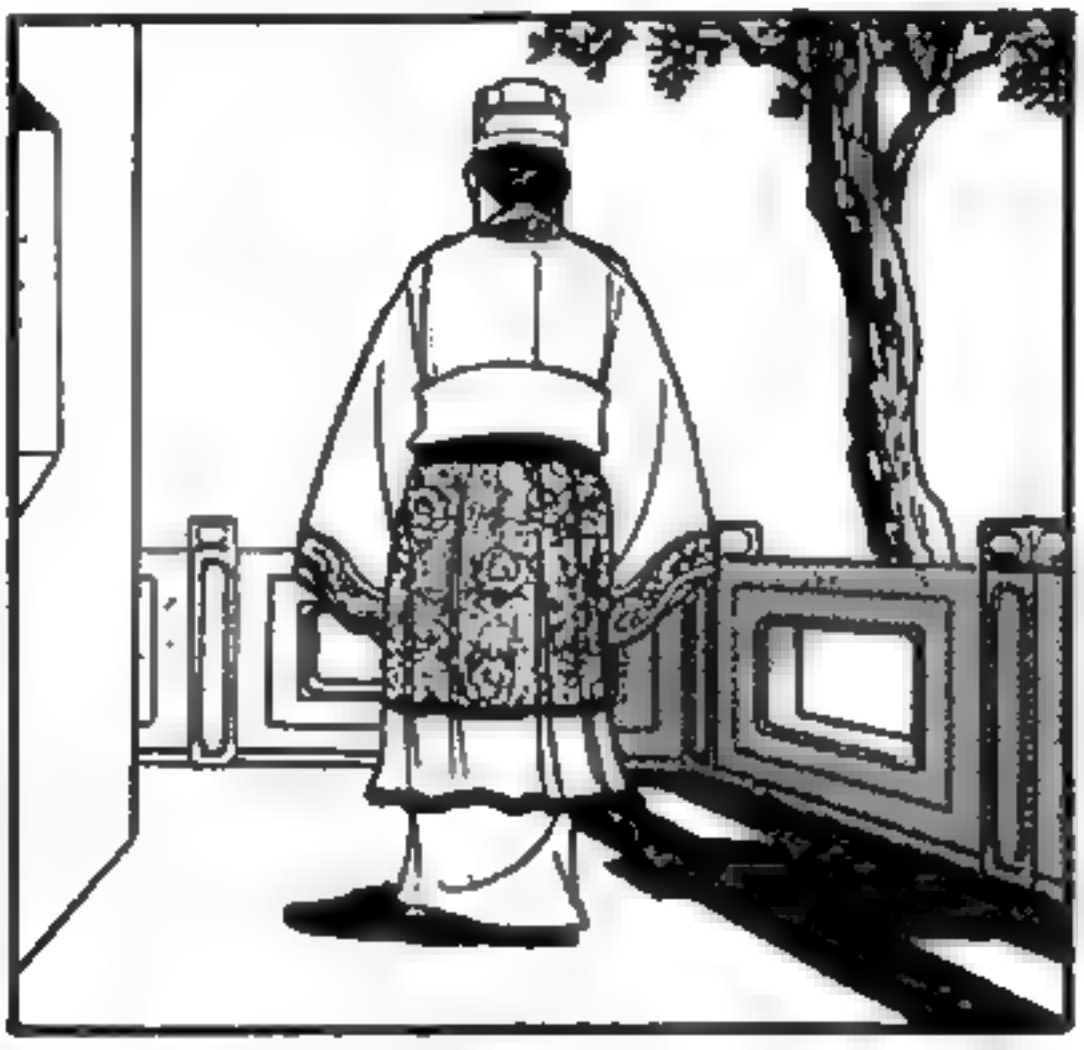
VERY WELL, LET'S TRY IT.

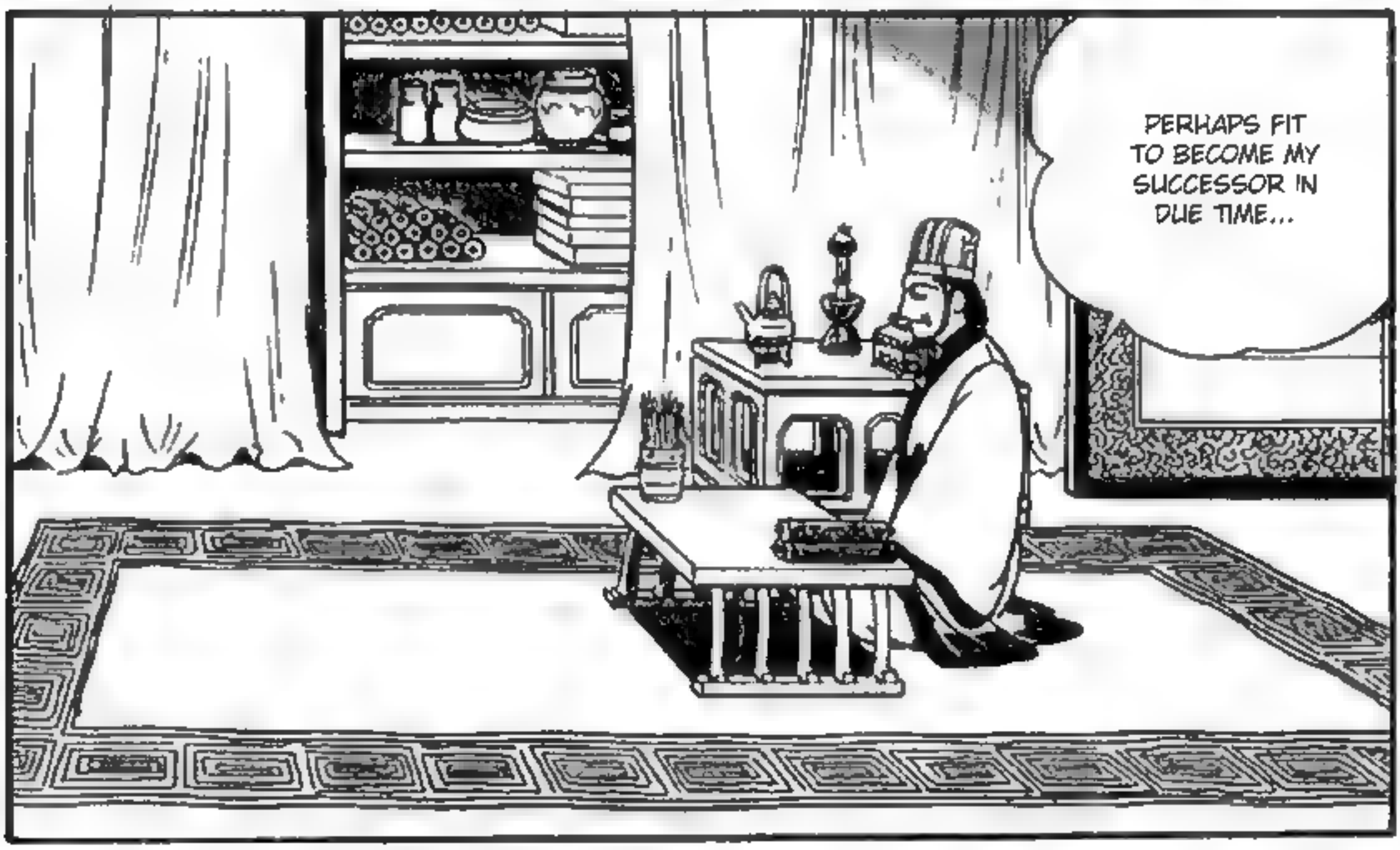
INTERESTING...

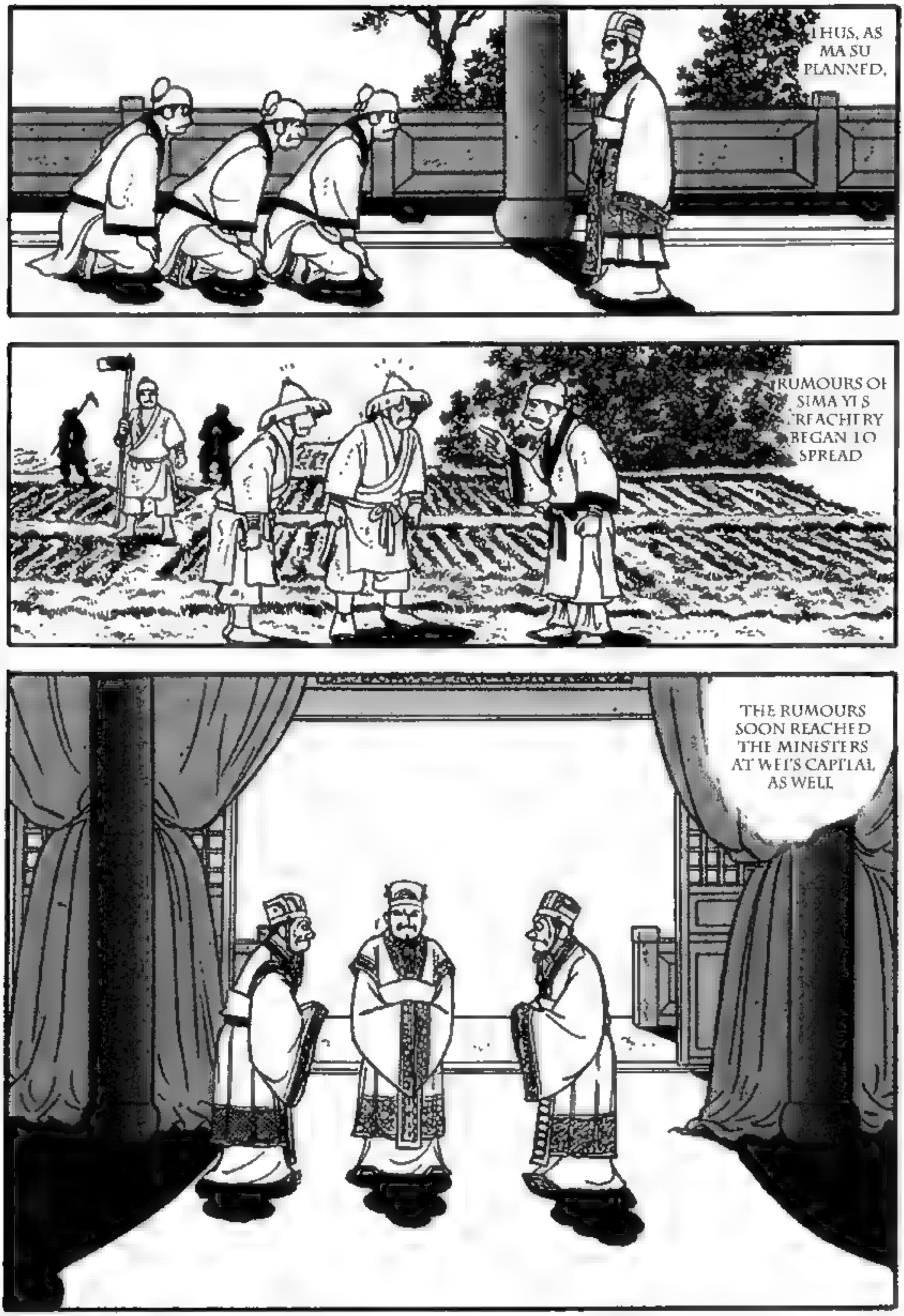
AND IF WE FORGE FAKE MANIFESTOS IN HIS NAME AND SPREAD THEM AROUND, THE YOUNG CAO RUI WHO HAS ONLY JUST ASCENDED TO THE THRONE WILL FEEL INSECURE AND DEMAND SIMA YI'S ARREST AND EXECUTION.


YES.
THEN I WILL GET THE SPIES TO START SPREADING RUMOURS.

HAHA, A SHARP MIND THAT LAD HAS.




PERHAPS FIT TO BECOME MY SUCCESSOR IN DUE TIME...


THUS, AS MA SU PLANNED,
RUMOURS OF SIMA YI'S TREACHERY BEGAN TO SPREAD
THE RUMOURS SOON REACHED THE MINISTERS AT WEI'S CAPITAL AS WELL

"I, SIMA YI, IMPERIAL COMMANDER OF THE FLYING CAVALRY, COMMANDER OF THE FORCES IN YONGZHOU AND JIANGZHOU, PROCLAIM TO THE REALM..."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

ONE DAY, A MANIFESTO WAS FOUND POSTED ON THE GATES OF YEJUN

UMM.. CAN YA DUMB IT DOWN FOR US FOLKS?

BUT NOW WITH CAO PI'S SUDDEN DEATH, HIS YOUNG AND INCAPABLE SON, CAO RUI, IS ON THE THRONE. IN ORDER TO CORRECT PAST MISTAKES, SIMA YI NOW INTENDS TO PLACE CAO ZHI, THE TRUE HEIR TO CAO CAO, ON THE THRONE.

HOWEVER, CAO PI USED A NEFARIOUS PLAN TO BANISH CAO ZHI AND PLACE HIMSELF ON THE THRONE.

BASICALLY, HE SAYS CAO CAO ORIGINALLY WANTED CAO ZHI TO BE HIS HEIR.

OH NO, I AIN'T GETTIN' CAUGHT UP IN ALL THIS VIOLENT NONSENSE. I'M GETTING AWAY FROM HERE WHILE I CAN.

YES. HE EVEN SAYS ANYBODY WHO INTERFERES IN HIS RIGHTEOUS QUEST WILL BE EXECUTED ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY.

DOES THAT MEAN... WAR?

THIS IS IT!

MOVE IT!

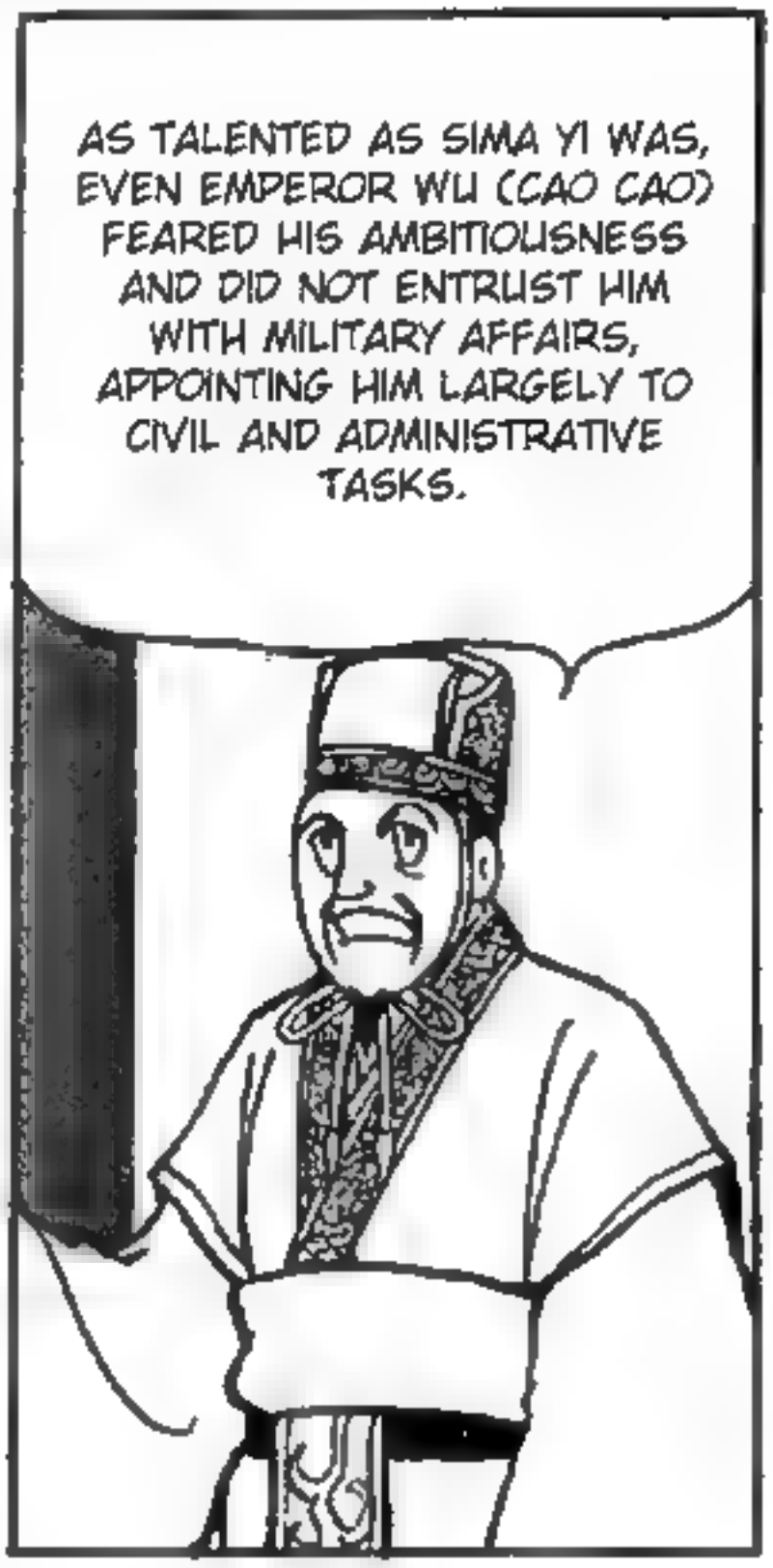
H-H-HOW CAN THIS BE!? WHAT HAVE I DONE TO SIMA YI TO BUY HIS WRATH?

WELL... I THINK THIS EXPLAINS WHY HE REALLY WANTED TO GO TO XILIANG...

DID HE REALLY WRITE THIS MANIFESTO?

*EMPERORS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS REFERRED TO BY THEIR POSTHUMOUS NAMES AND NOT THEIR ACTUAL NAMES. HENCE EMPEROR WU FOR CAO CAO OR EMPEROR WEN FOR CAO PI

THEY SAY SIMA YI IS WELL-LEARNED IN THE ARTS OF WAR SINCE HIS YOUTH. NOW THAT A YOUNG EMPEROR IS ON THE THRONE, HE MUST THINK IT IS NOW HIS TIME TO BARE HIS CLAWS AND FANGS.


AS TALENTED AS SIMA YI WAS, EVEN EMPEROR WU (CAO CAO) FEARED HIS AMBITIOUSNESS AND DID NOT ENTRUST HIM WITH MILITARY AFFAIRS, APPOINTING HIM LARGELY TO CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS.

I SIMPLY CANNOT BELIEVE SIMA YI ACTUALLY WROTE THIS MANIFESTO. WHEN EMPEROR WEN (CAO PI) WAS ON HIS DEATHBED, HE ASKED SIMA YI, CHEN QUN, AND MYSELF TO SEE THAT YOUR MAJESTY SUCCEEDS ON THE THRONE AND DUTIFULLY SERVE YOU. THERE WAS NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT IN EMPEROR WEN'S HEART THAT SIMA YI'S LOYALTY WAS QUESTIONABLE.

AN INTERNAL REBELLION IS EXACTLY WHAT SHU OR WU WANTS. WE MUST NOT FALL FOR THEIR PLOYS.

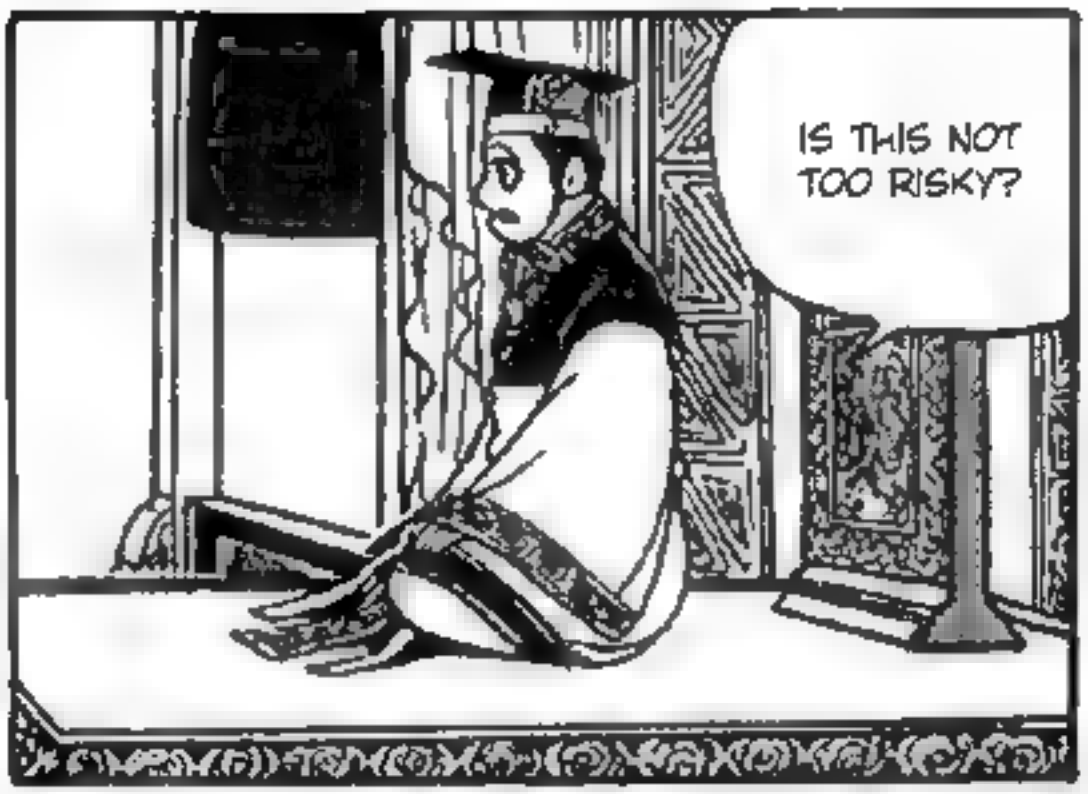
IF WE SEND AN ARMY AFTER HIM BEFORE INVESTIGATING THE TRUTH OF THIS MANIFESTO, HE WILL FEEL HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO EITHER FIGHT OR DIE.

WE CAN JUDGE HIS LOYALTIES BY HIS ACTIONS DURING THAT VISIT.

IF YOUR MAJESTY WERE TO VISIT ANYI, SIMA YI WILL BE FORCED TO COME AND PAY HIS RESPECTS.

BUT CAO ZHEN, IF SIMA YI REALLY WROTE THIS, WOULD WE NOT BE LETTING A CHANCE TO STAMP THE SEEDS OF REBELLION SLIP BY?

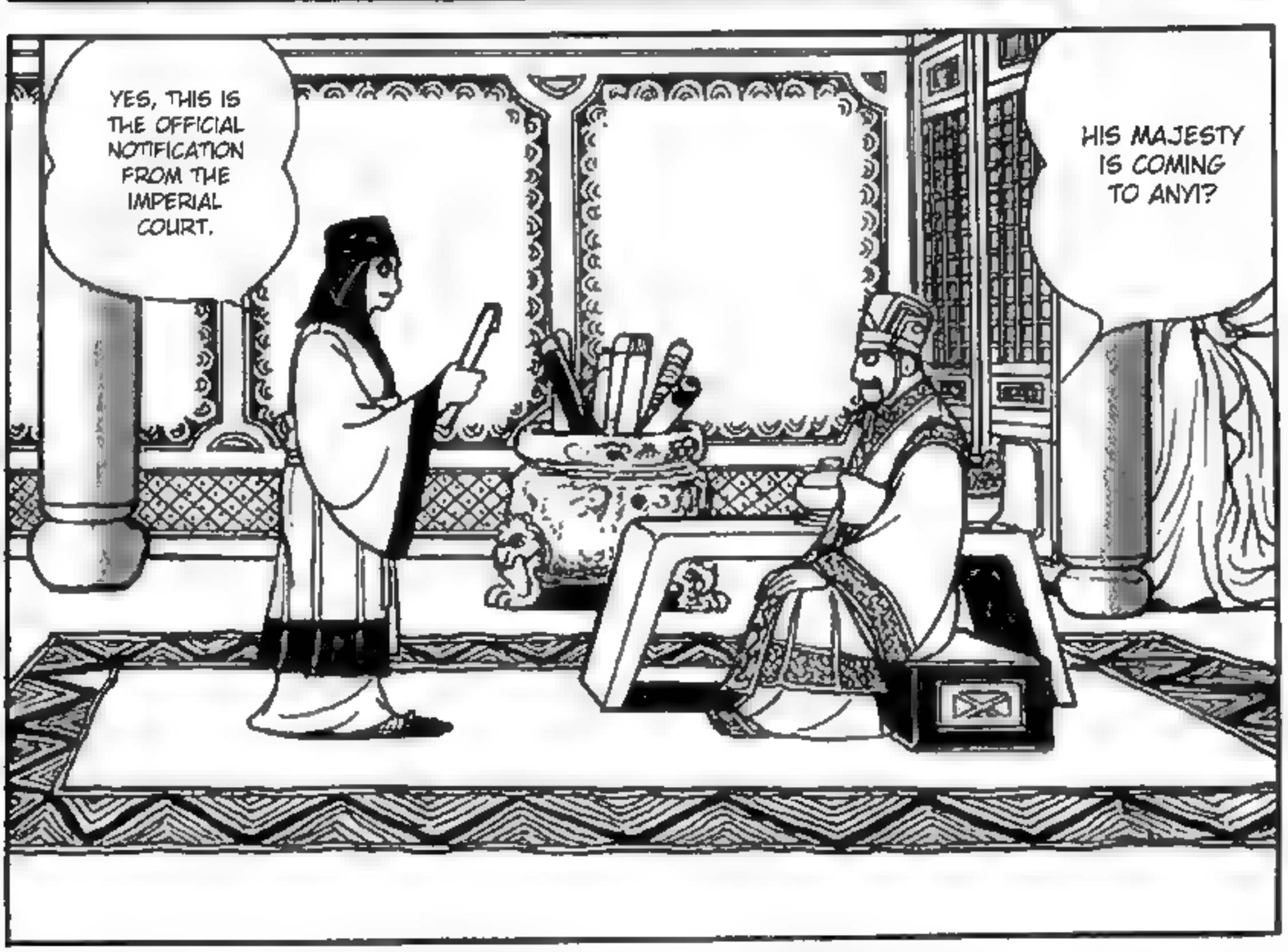
100,000 IMPERIAL GUARDS WILL ESCORT YOUR HIGHNESS TO ANYI. THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.


IS THIS NOT TOO RISKY?

AND WITH THAT, THE MEETING CAME TO A CLOSE.

ESCORTED BY THE IMPERIAL GUARDS, CAO RUI HEADED TO ANYI TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS POTENTIAL CRISIS

SIMA YI DISMISSED



GATHER THE TROOPS.

I SEE... THEN I MUST GO OUT TO ESCORT HIM AT ONCE.

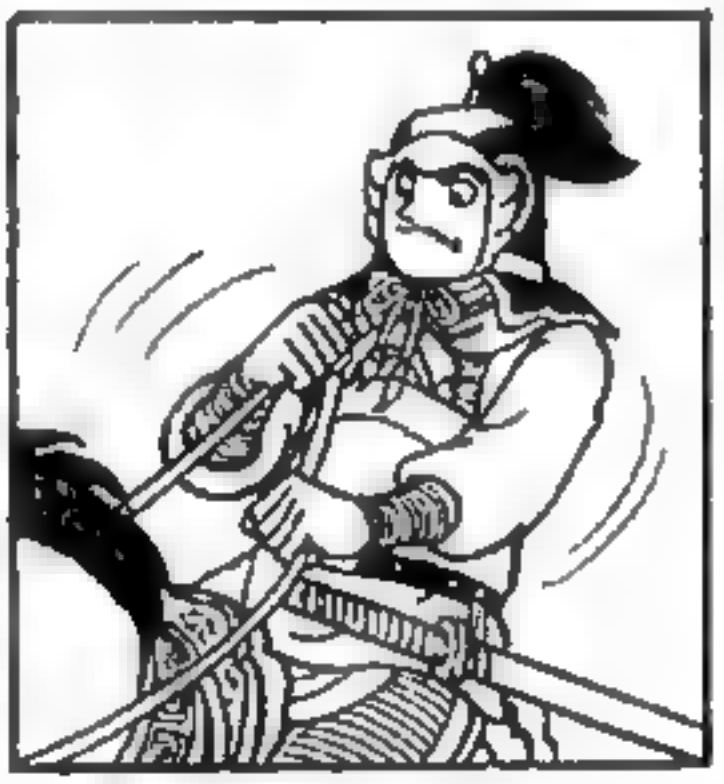
YES, SIR.

WE MUST SHOW HIM OUR FORCES HERE ARE WELL DRILLED AND DISCIPLINED SO THAT HE WILL REALIZE XILIANG IS IN SAFE HANDS.

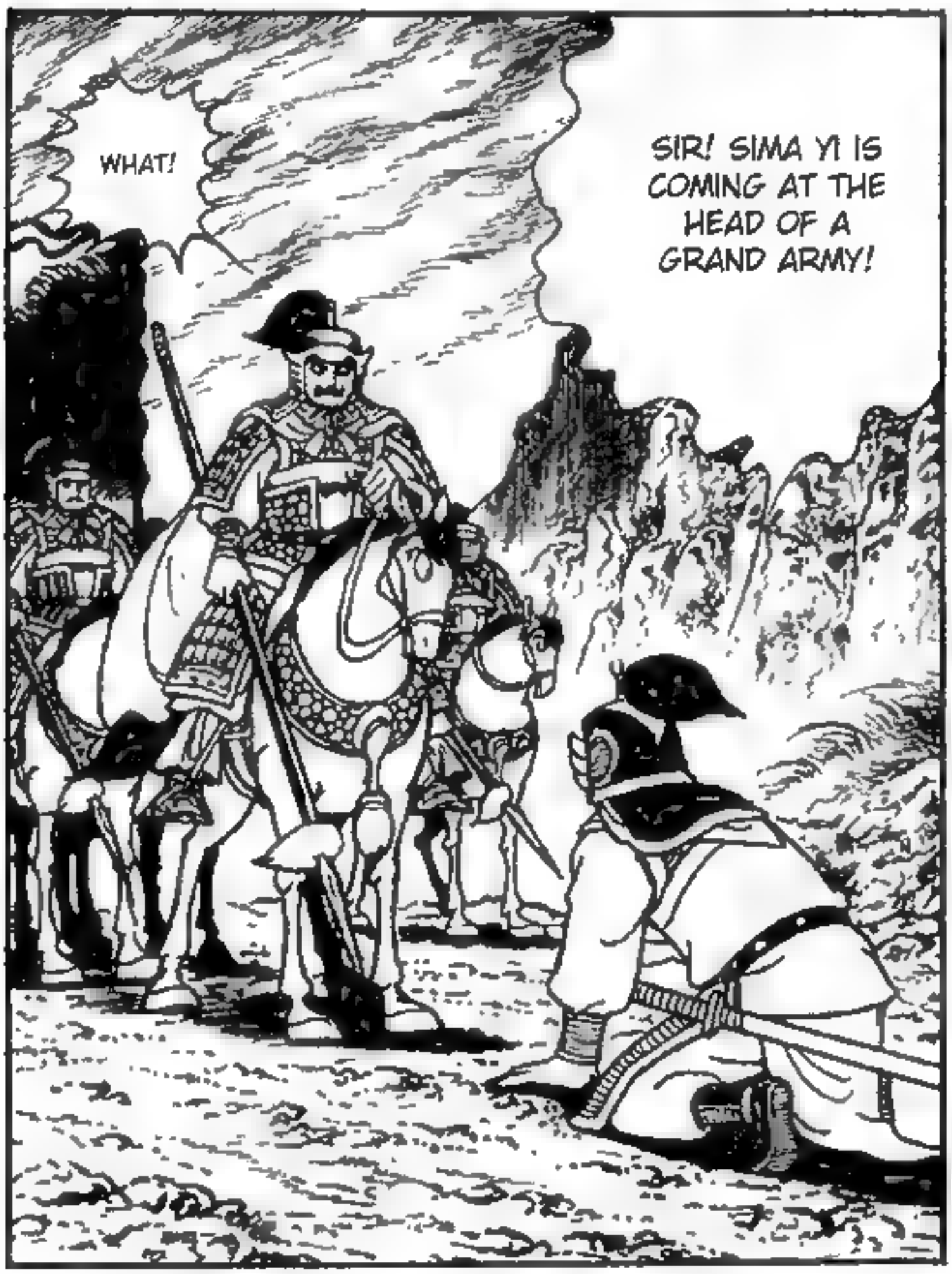
UNAWARE OF THE RUMOURS ABOUT HIM, SIMA YI WENT OUT AT THE HEAD OF A GRAND ARMY ON HIS WAY TO GREET THE EMPEROR.

SO HE DOES PLAN TO REBEL...!
LOOK! HE'S COMING WITH A HUGE ARMY!

WE MUST REPORT THIS TO OUR SUPERIORS AT ONCE!



曹休

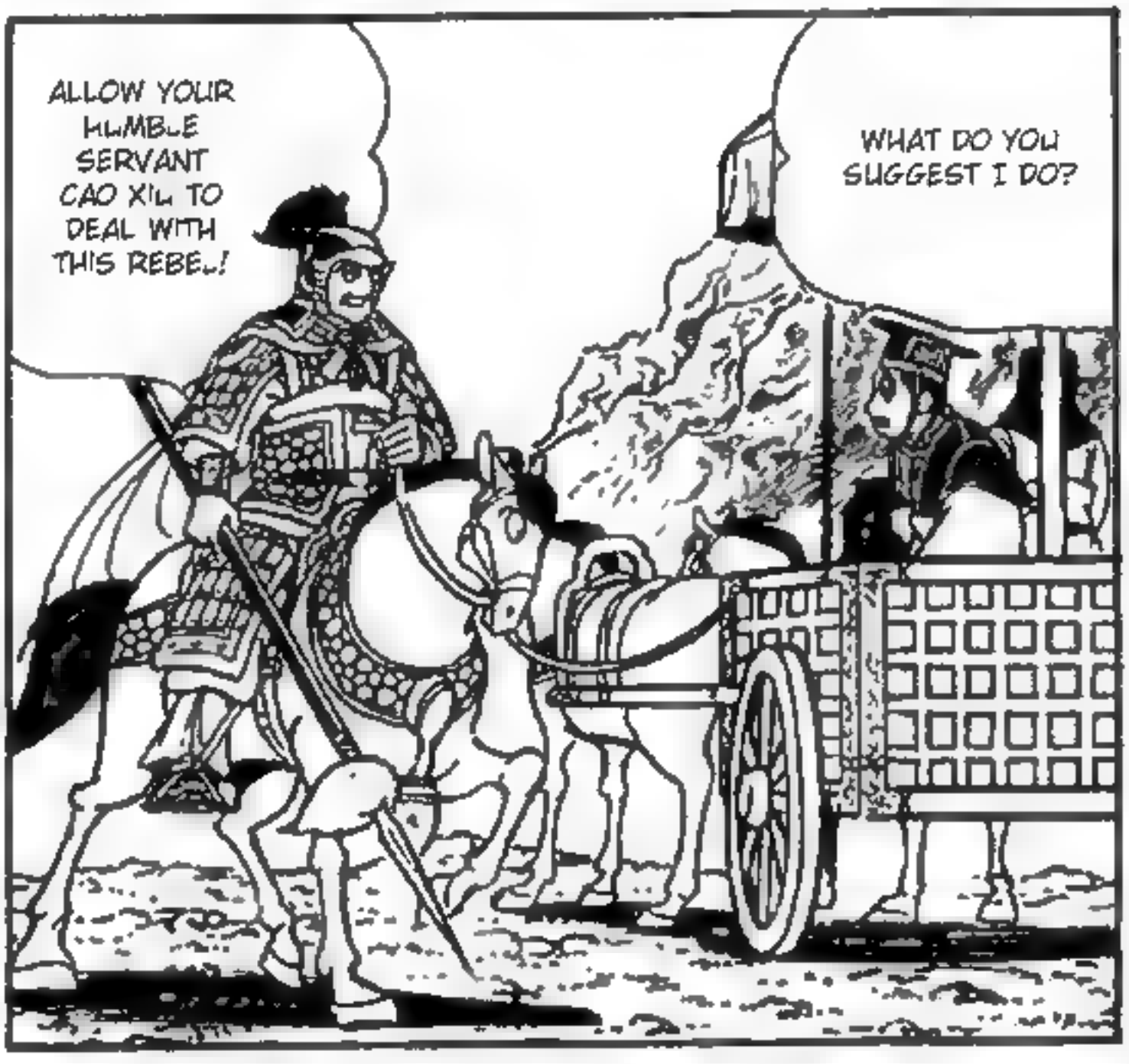

WHAT!
SIR! SIMA YI IS COMING AT THE HEAD OF A GRAND ARMY!

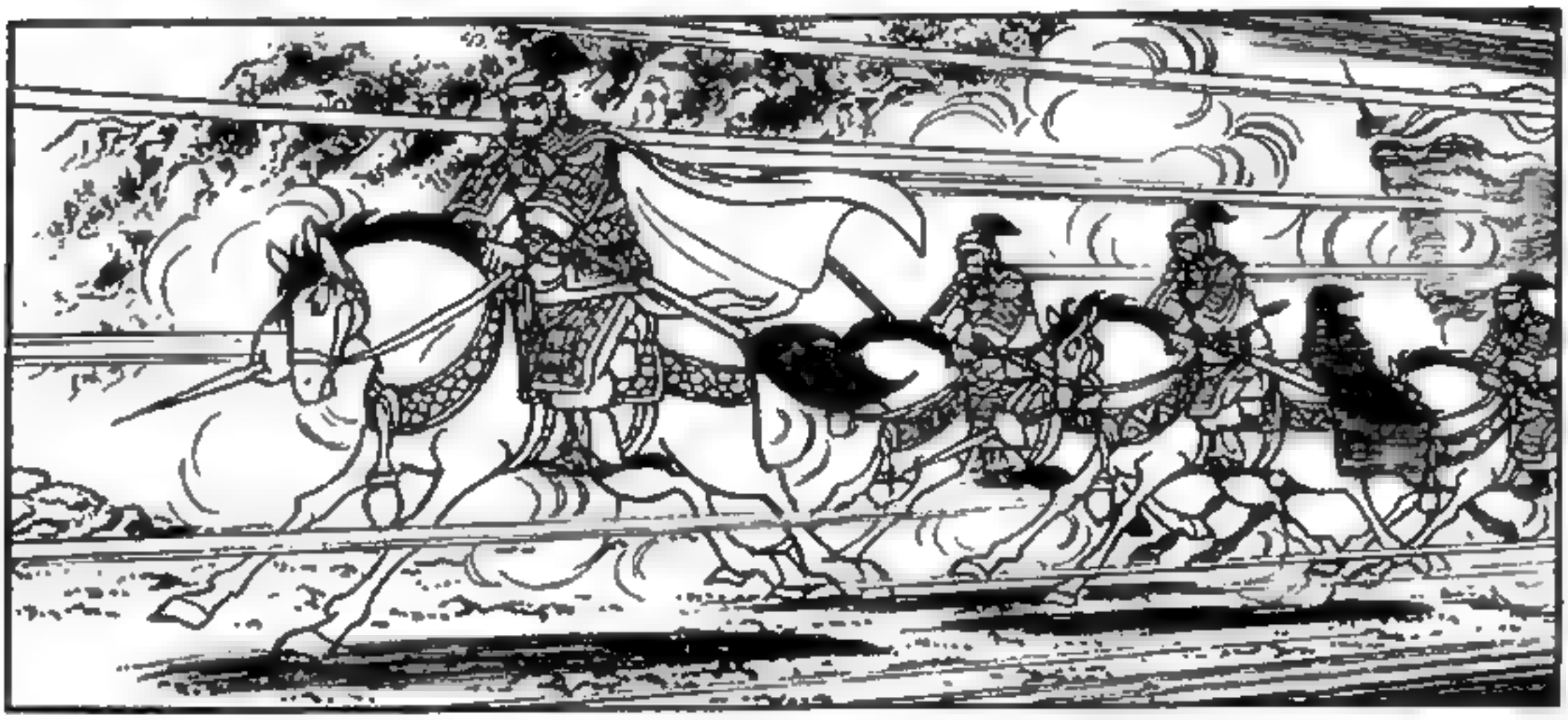
カ
ッ
カ

PERHAPS THE RUMOURS ARE TRUE!

WHY WOULD HE NEED SO MANY MEN JUST TO ESCORT THE EMPEROR!?

FOLLOW ME!


ALLOW YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT CAO XIU TO DEAL WITH THIS REBEL!
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST I DO?



司馬懿

司馬懿
HM?
司馬懿

曹休
曹休

GET OFF YOUR HORSES AND PREPARE TO GREET HIS MAJESTY!

AH, THAT MUST BE THE IMPERIAL GUARDS ESCORTING THE EMPEROR.

ハ〜ハ〜

GOOD DAY TO YOU, CAO XIU.

SIMA YI!

W-WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN!?

HOW DARE YOU BREAK YOUR OATH TO THE FORMER EMPEROR BY HARBOURING TREACHEROUS THOUGHTS!?

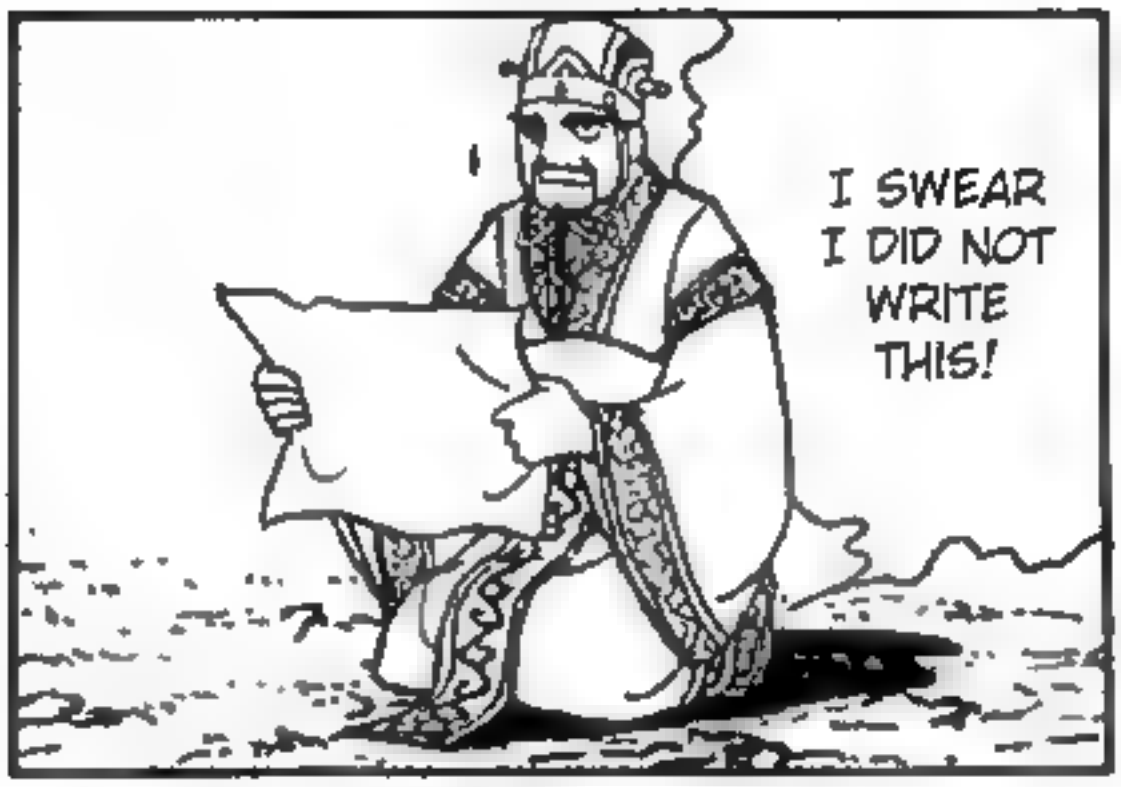
PLAYING DUMB, EH?

I HAVE NOT EVEN AN INKLING AS TO WHAT YOU MEAN BY TREACHERY.

?

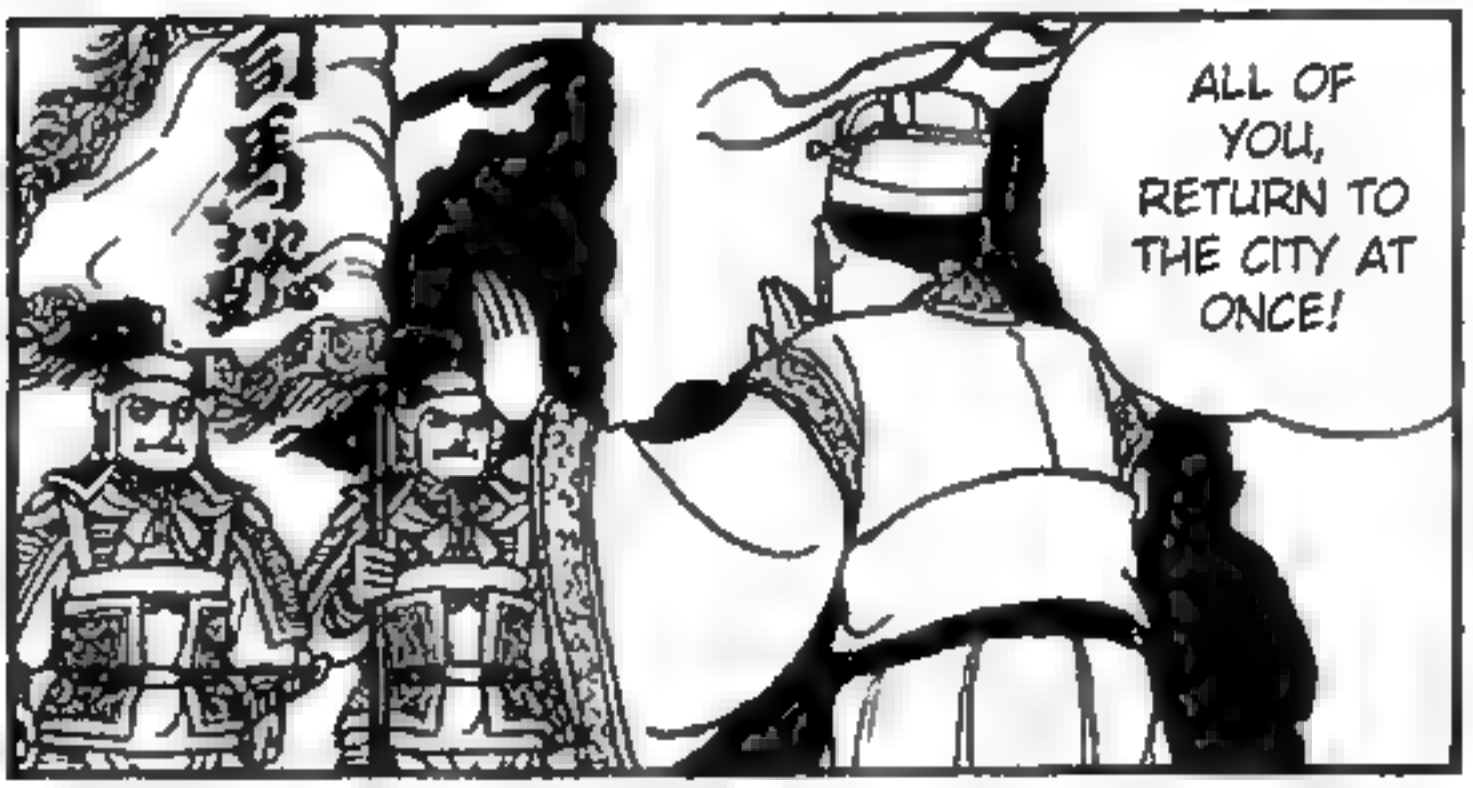
ヒラ
ヒラ

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS!?


I SWEAR I DID NOT WRITE THIS!

W-WHA!

.....
THIS MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE'S NEFARIOUS PLOT TO FRAME ME! PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SPEAK TO HIS MAJESTY AND EXPLAIN THE TRUTH OF THIS MATTER!


ALL OF YOU, RETURN TO THE CITY AT ONCE!

VERY WELL, COME WITH ME.

IF I WERE REALLY PLANNING TO REBEL, WOULD I SEND ALL MY SOLDIERS BACK NOW?

I HAVE BROUGHT ALONG SIMA YI, YOUR MAJESTY.

YOUR MAJESTY! I HARBOUR NOT EVEN AN OUNCE OF TREACHERY!

IN FACT, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT THIS IS A SHU OR WU PLOT TO REMOVE ME FROM POWER AND COMPROMISE OUR DEFENSES! PLEASE JUDGE WISELY AND DISCERN THE TRUTH!

I DID NOT REQUEST TO GO TO XILIANG IN ORDER TO PLOT A REBELLION. IT WAS ONLY TO PREPARE THE TROOPS AGAINST SHU, WHO THREATEN OUR WESTERN BORDERS.

AND I WILL GLADLY ATTACK SHU OR WU ALL IN YOUR MAJESTY'S NAME!

IF YOU STILL DOUBT ME, GRANT ME CONTROL OF AN ARMY.

.....

YOUR MAJESTY MUST ABSOLUTELY NOT GIVE SIMA YI COMMAND OF THE TROOPS.

PLEASE GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PROVE MY LOYALTIES!

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

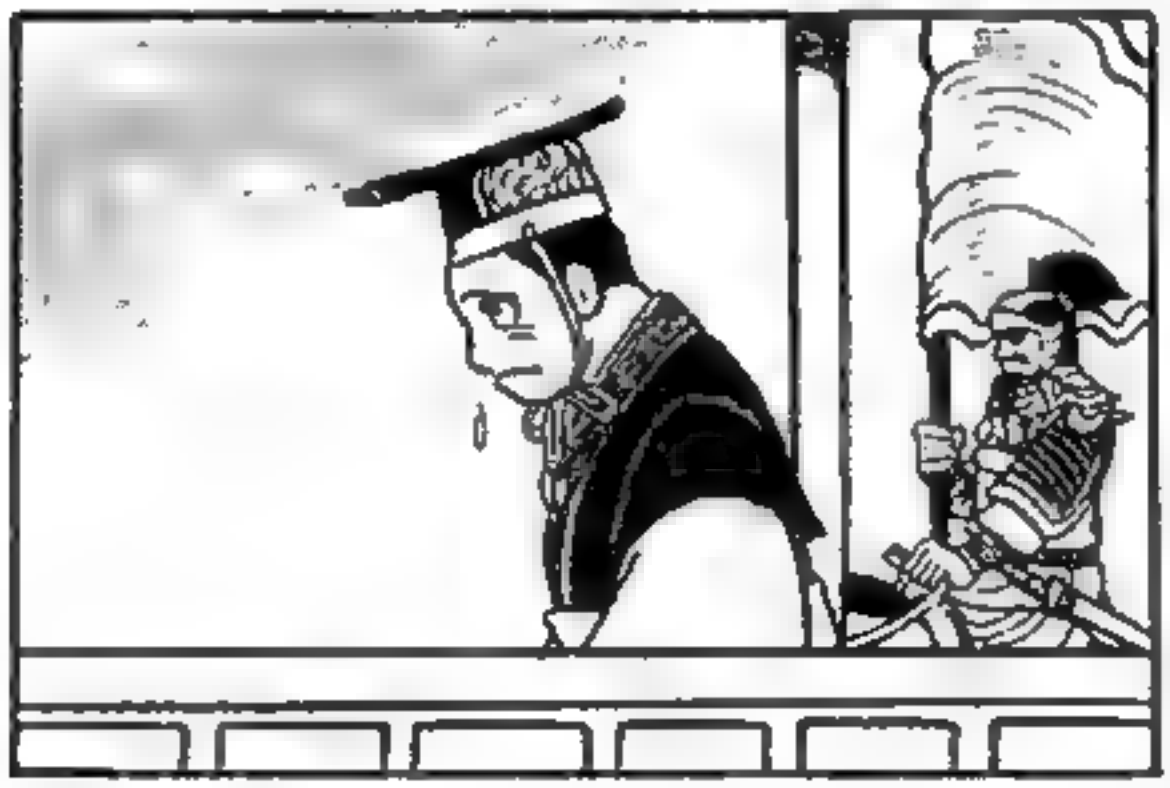
I AGREE. THIS WHOLE INCIDENT STARTED WITH SIMA YI BEING GIVEN POWERS OVER THE MILITARY, SO TO GIVE HIM CONTROL OF AN ARMY WILL NOT SOLVE ANYTHING!

HE SHOULD BE DISMISSED AND BANISHED TO HIS HOMETOWN.

THANK YOU.

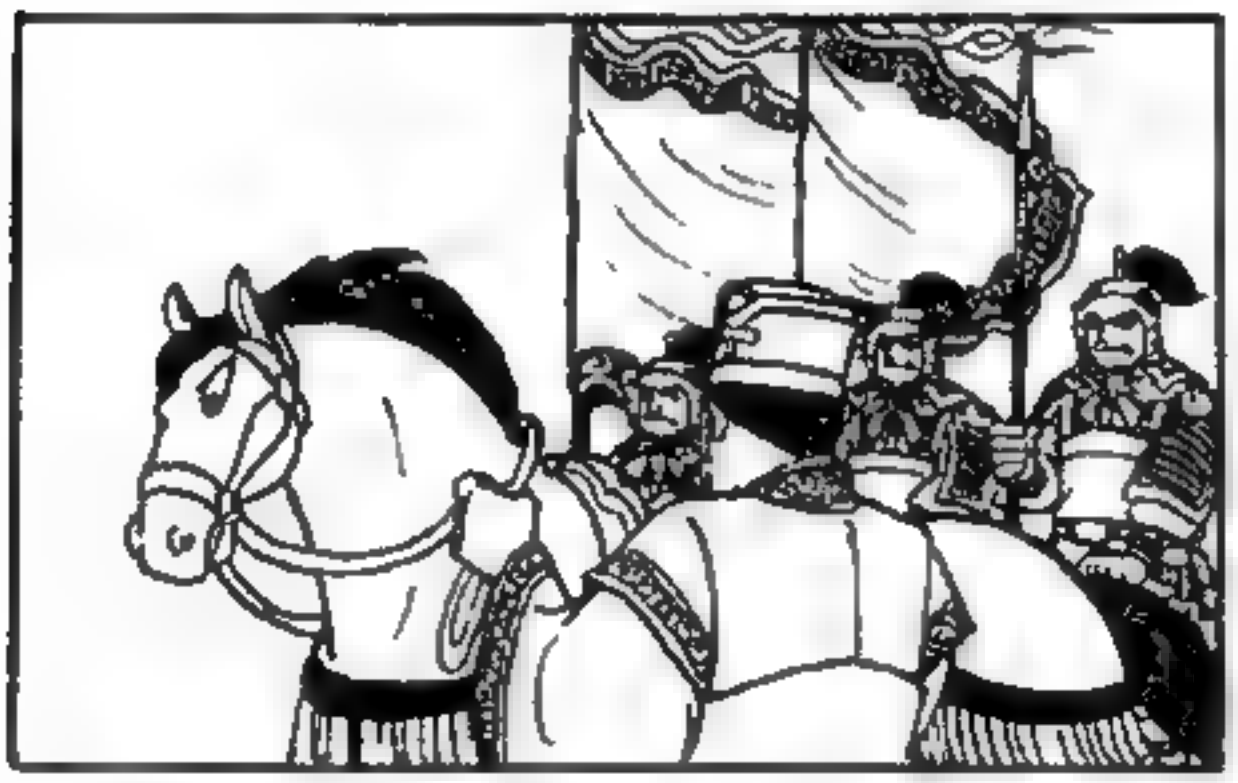
YES... I WILL DEFER TO YOUR ADVICE THEN, HUA XIN.

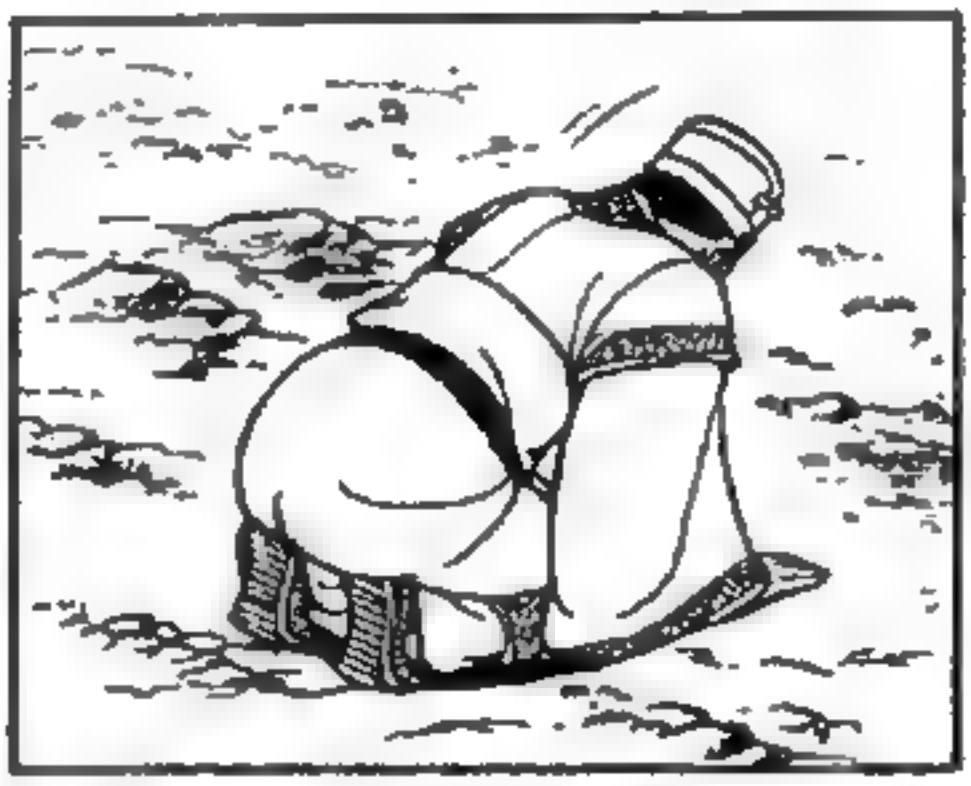
SIMA YI ZHONGDA! YOU ARE HEREBY DISMISSED FROM ALL YOUR POSTS! YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR HOMETOWN AT ONCE AND NEVER ASPIRE TO RISE AGAIN!



YOUR MAJESTY!

DO NOT MAKE AN UNSIGHTLY SCENE! REMOVE YOURSELF!





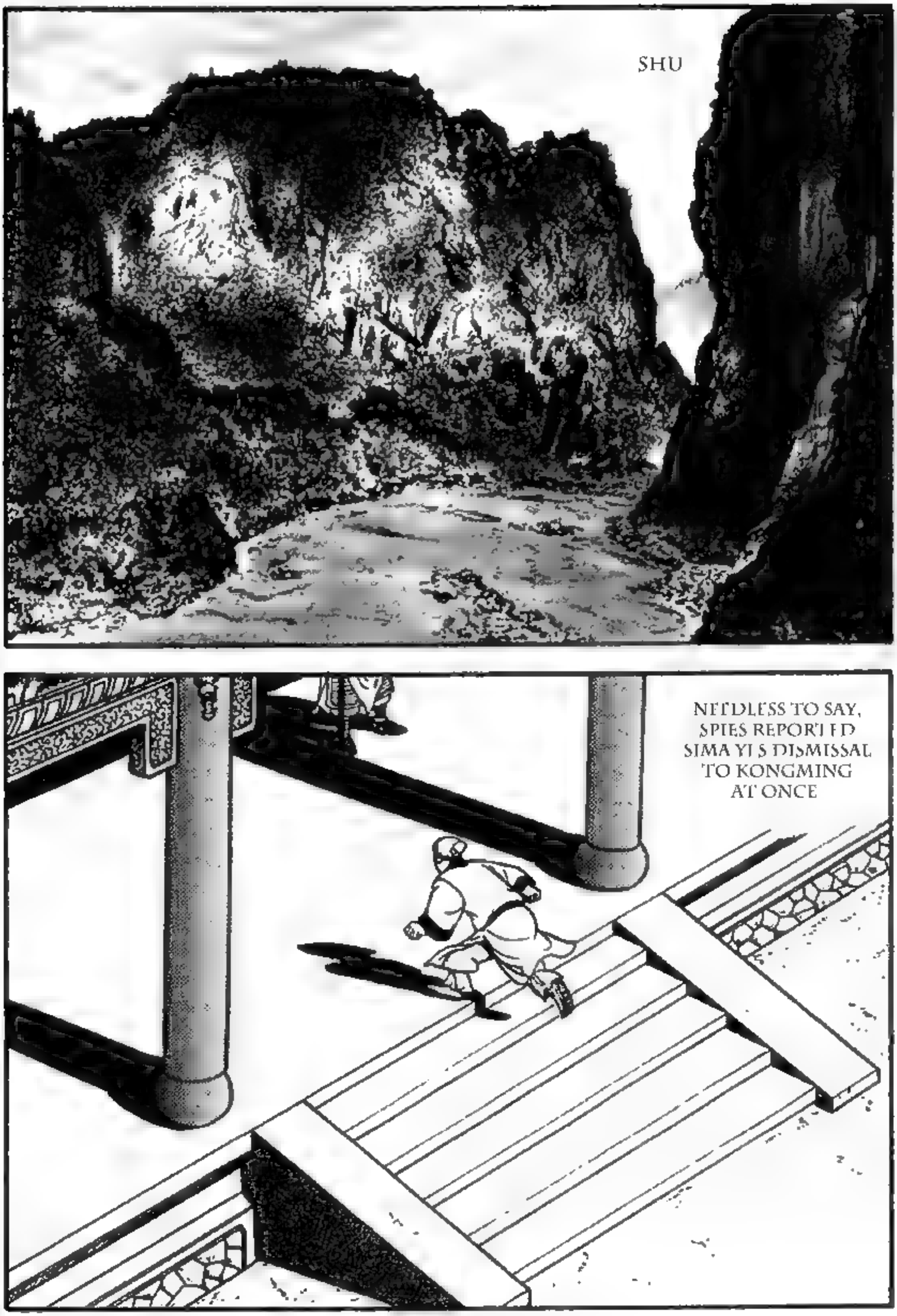
I RECOMMEND CAO XIU.

THEN WHO SHOULD NOW BE IN CHARGE OF THE TWO XILIANG PROVINCES OF YONGZHOU AND LIANGZHOU?

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

WILL YOU ACCEPT, CAO XIU?

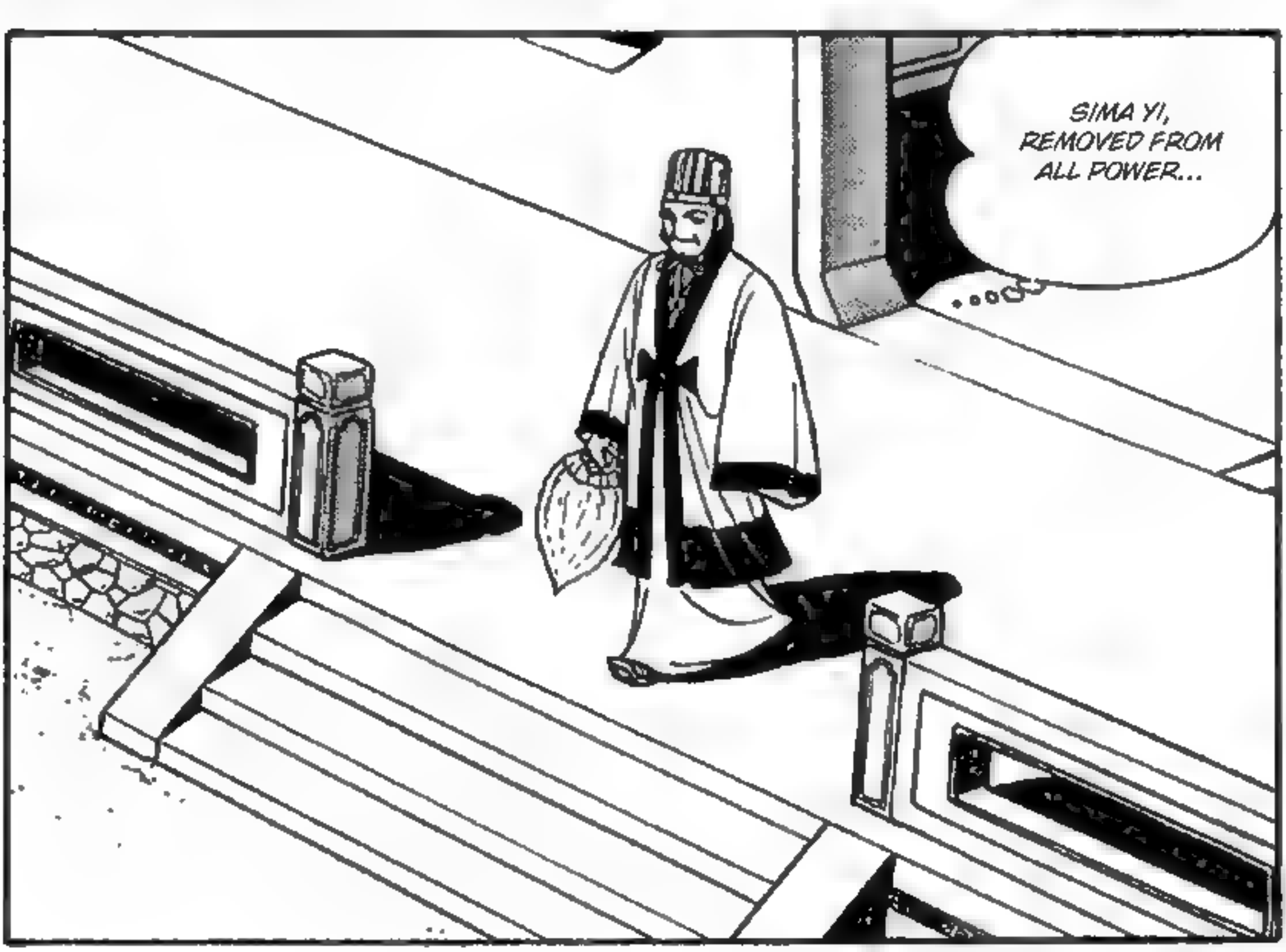
AND WITH THAT, CAO RUI RETURNED TO HIS PALACE


SHU
NEEDLESS TO SAY, SPIES REPORTED SIMA YI'S DISMISSAL TO KONGMING AT ONCE

THANK YOU FOR THE REPORT YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF.

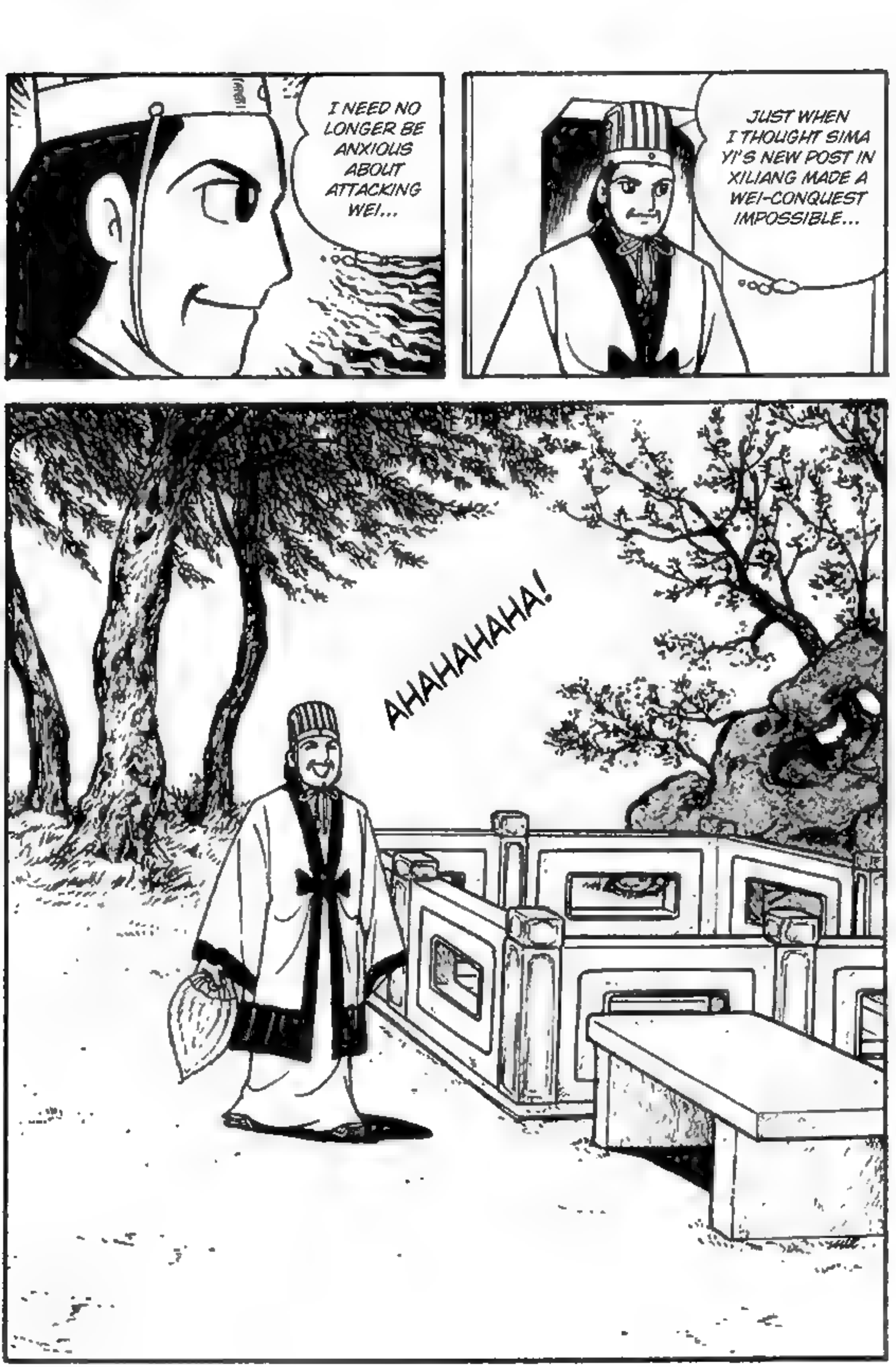
YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.
SO SIMA YI HAS BEEN BANISHED TO HIS HOMETOWN?


SIMA YI, REMOVED FROM ALL POWER...
...

I NEED NO LONGER BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ATTACKING WEI...

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT SIMA YI'S NEW POST IN XILIANG MADE A WEI-CONQUEST IMPOSSIBLE...


AHAHAHAHA!

DID YOU CALL, MASTER?

IS THERE A SERVANT HERE?

YES, MASTER.

FROM TODAY FORTH, SHUT THE GATES AND DO NOT ALLOW ANY GUESTS UNTIL I SAY OTHERWISE.

YES.

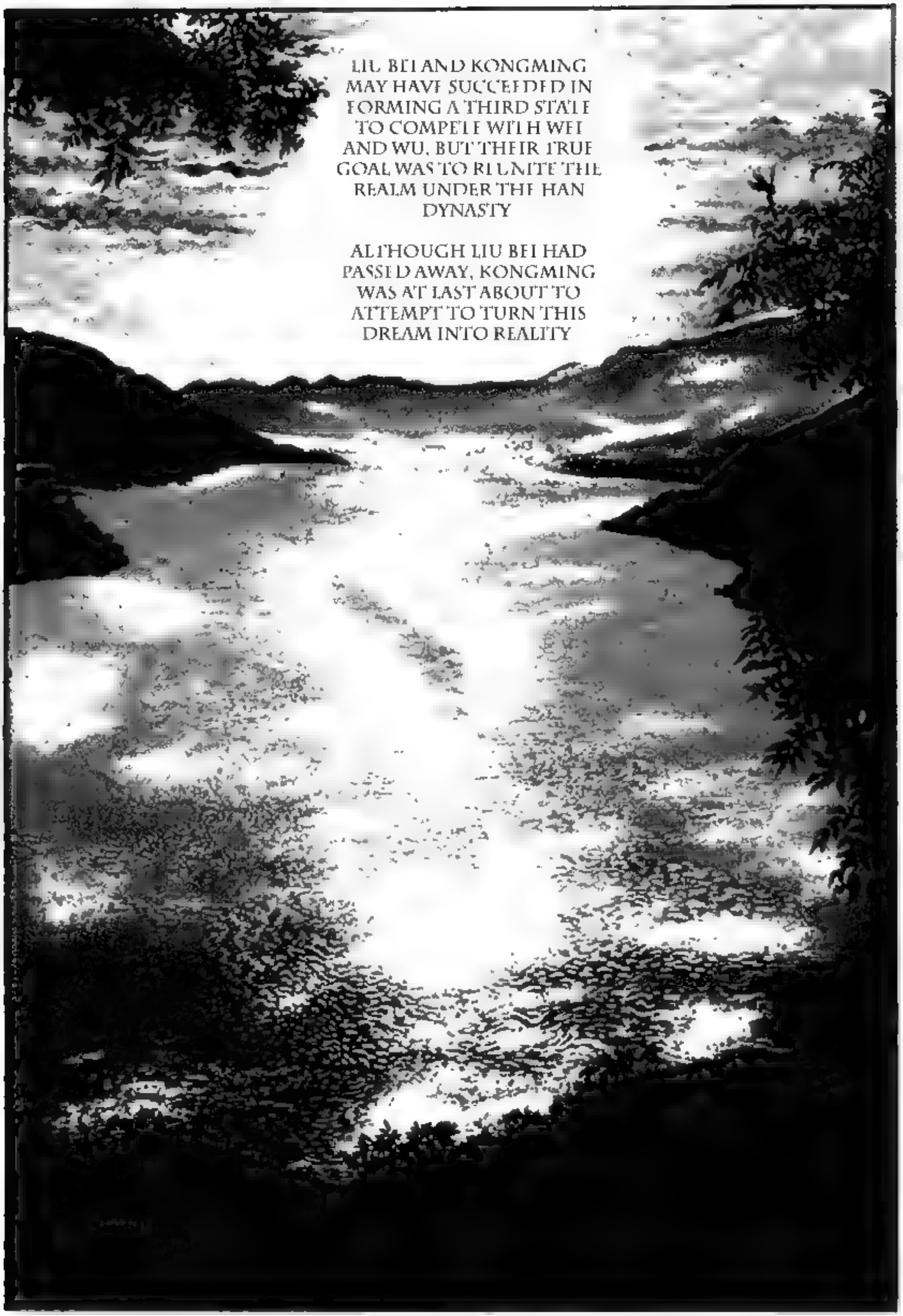
AND DO NOT HAVE ANY SERVANTS COME TO MY STUDY ROOM UNLESS I SAY SO.

THE CHANCELLOR OF SHU SHUT HIMSELF IN HIS PRIVATE ROOM AND TURNED AWAY ALL VISITORS

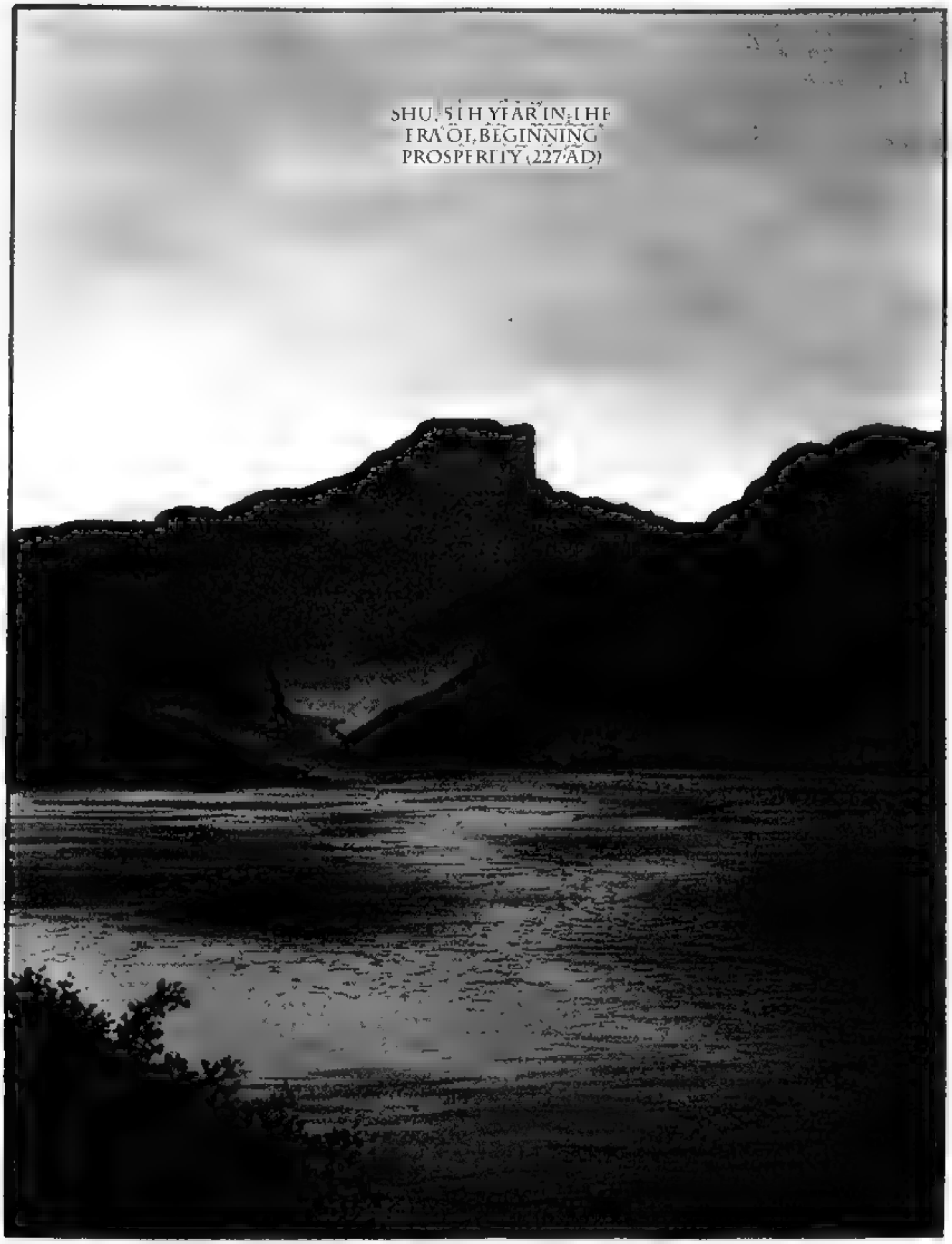
IN IT, RESONATED HIS PASSIONATE LOYALTY, DUTY AND GRAND PLANS OF STATE BUILDING.

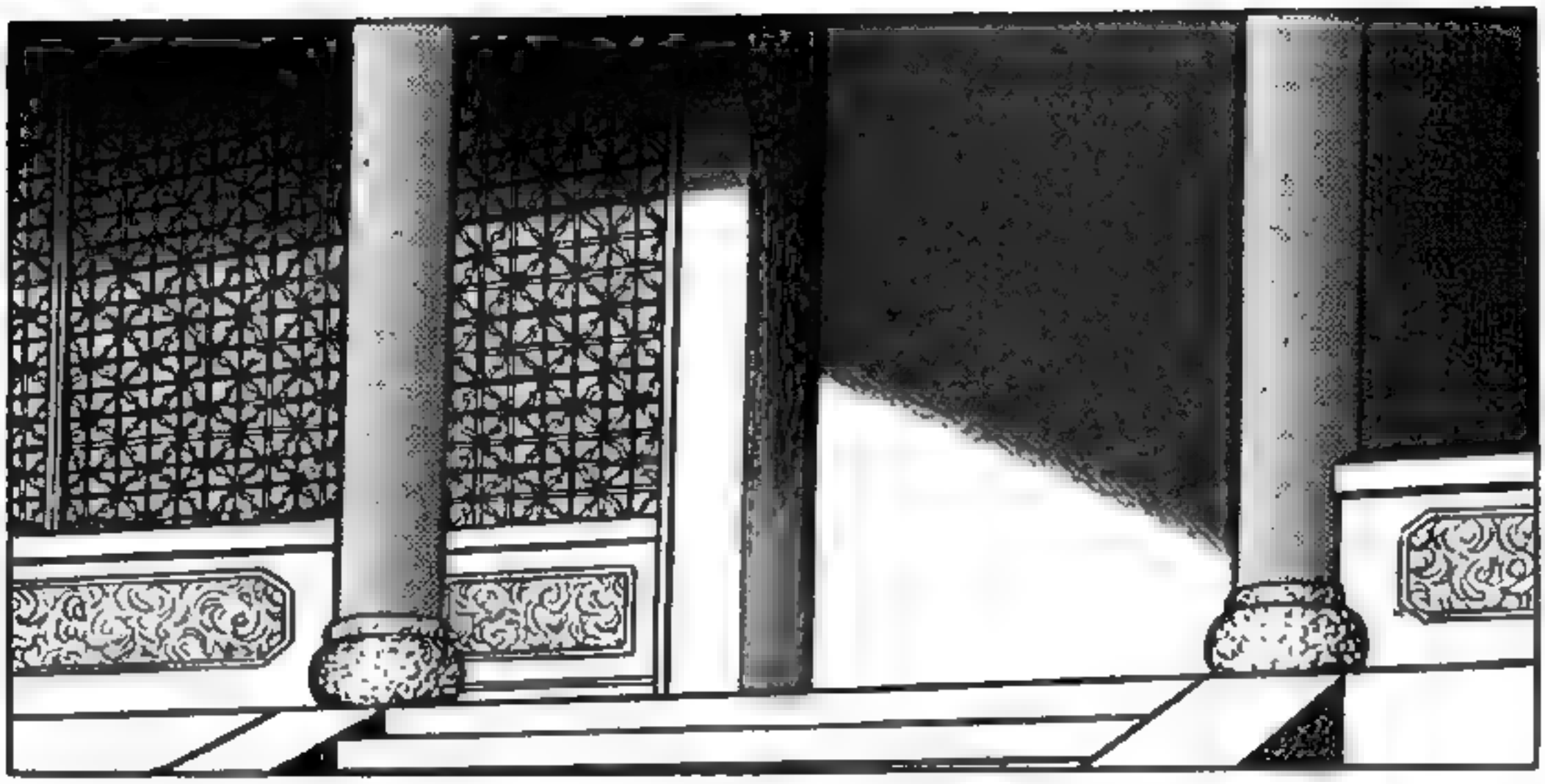
STROKING OUT ONE CHARACTER AT A TIME WITH CAREFUL DELIBERATION, ZHUGE LIANG WROTE THE *FORMER CHU SHI BIAO*, THE FAMOUS HISTORICAL ESSAY WHICH BEGINS WITH THE IMMORTAL LINE, "YOUR SERVANT, LIANG, REPORTS"

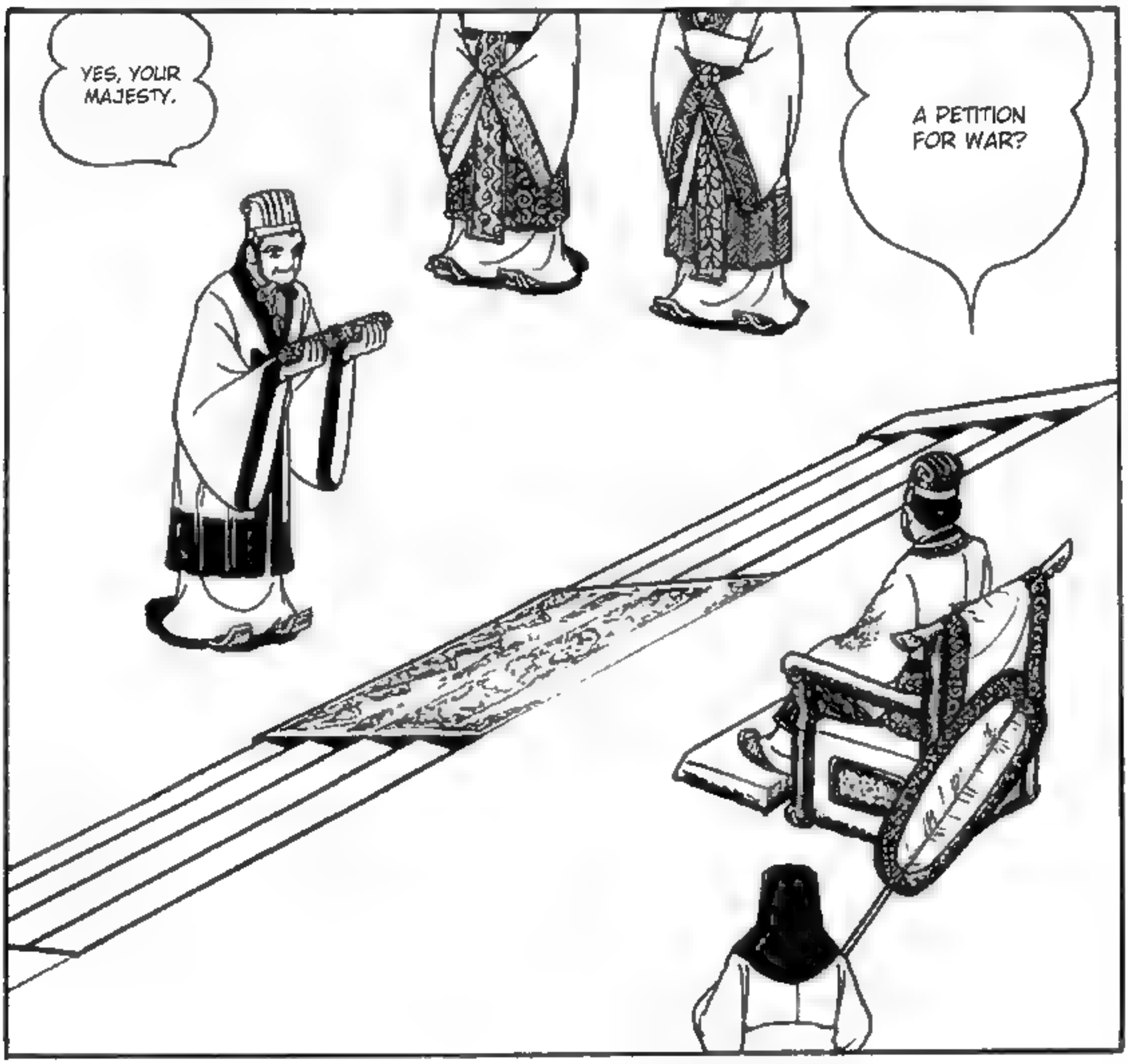
*CHU SHI BIAO (出師表) TWO MEMORIALS (FORMER AND LATER CHU SHI BIAO) WRITTEN BY ZHUGE LIANG AND PRESENTED TO THE SHU EMPEROR TO OUTLINE A CASE FOR WAR AGAINST WEI
ITS LASTING IMPORTANCE MEANT IT WAS REFERRED TO BY MANY SCHOLARS AND MINISTERS IN LATER DYNASTIES. EVEN TODAY, IT IS STILL TAUGHT AND RECITED IN CHINESE SCHOOLS


LIU BEI AND KONGMING MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN FORMING A THIRD STATE TO COMPETE WITH WEI AND WU, BUT THEIR TRUE GOAL WAS TO REUNITE THE REALM UNDER THE HAN DYNASTY
ALTHOUGH LIU BEI HAD PASSED AWAY, KONGMING WAS AT LAST ABOUT TO ATTEMPT TO TURN THIS DREAM INTO REALITY

CHU SHI BIAO (PETITION FOR WAR)






YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
A PETITION FOR WAR?

WAR!?

BUT IT HAS ONLY BEEN LITTLE OVER A YEAR SINCE YOU CAME BACK FROM YOUR CAMPAIGN IN NANMAN LANDS.

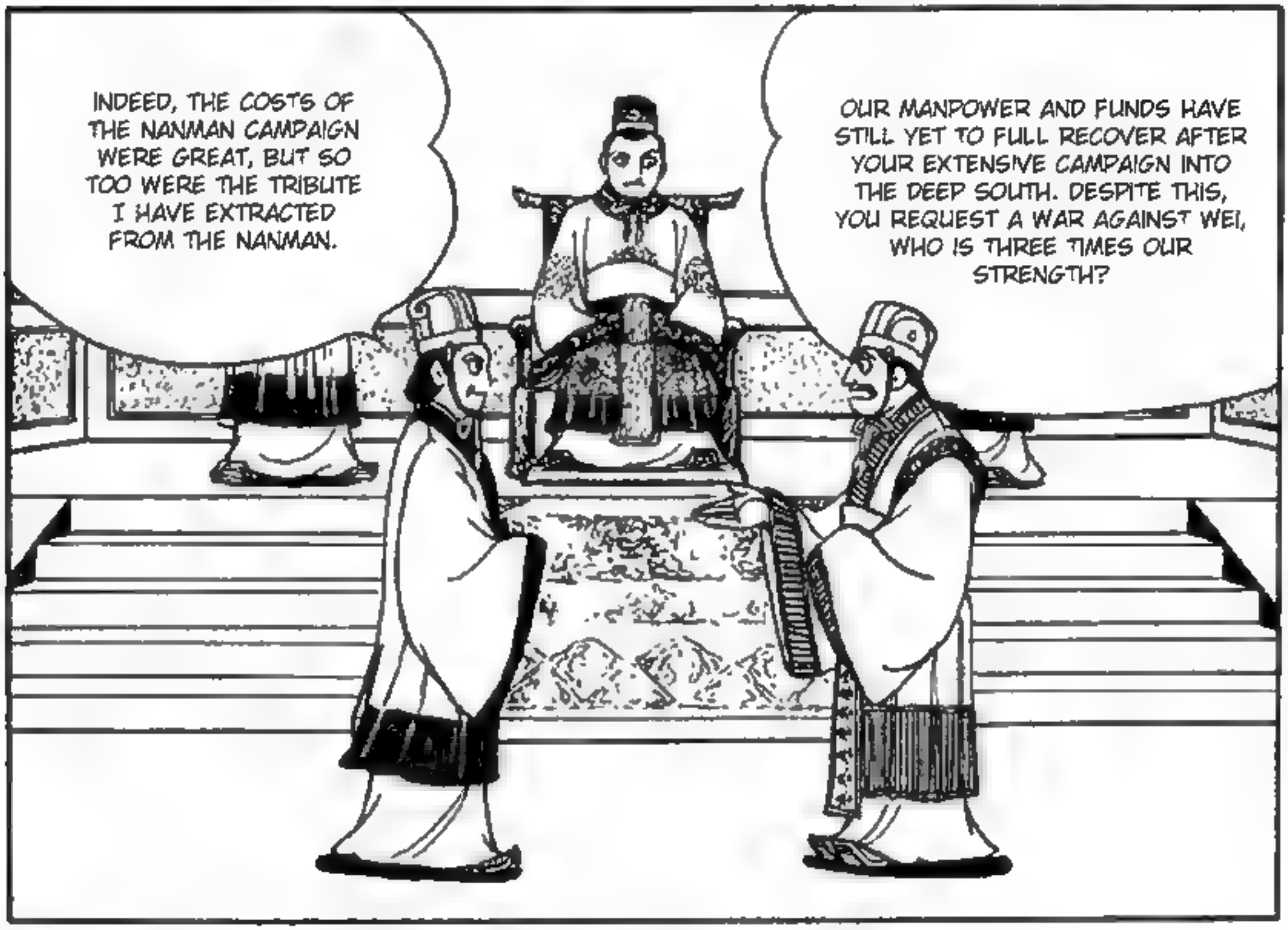
YES, I BELIEVE THERE IS NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW FOR A CAMPAIGN TO CONQUER WEI.

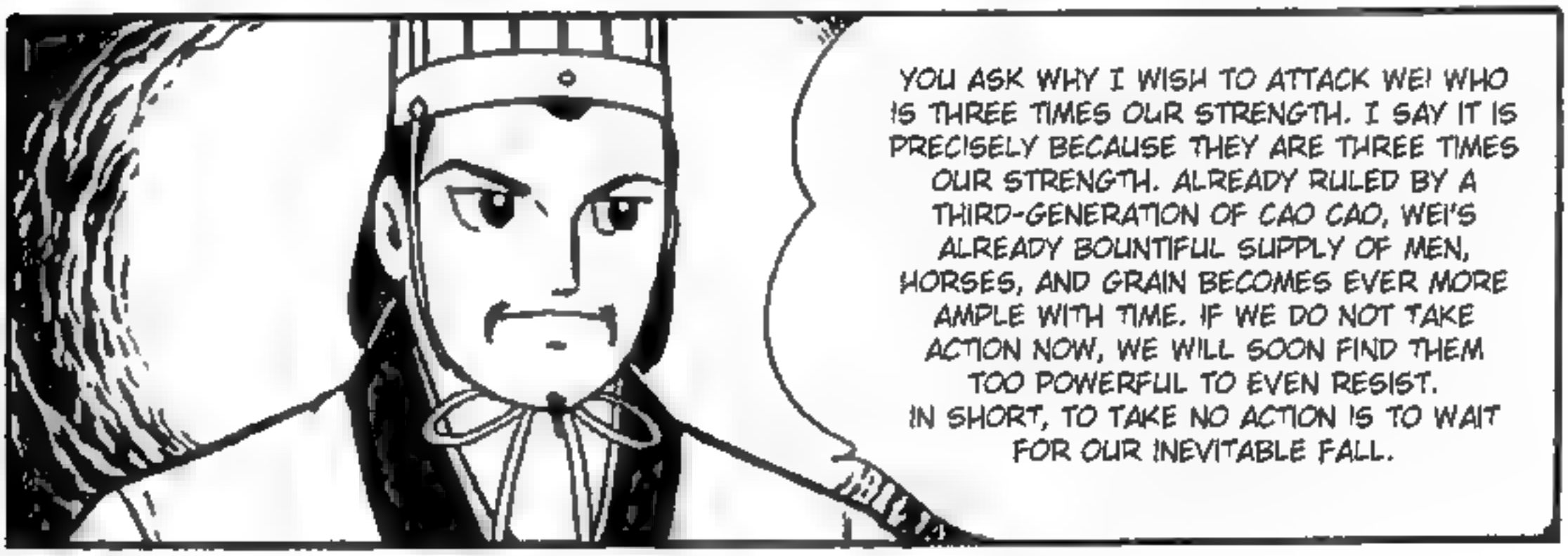
YOU REQUEST A WAR AGAINST WEI?

AS I AM NOW NEARING 50, I FEAR IF I DELAY ANY LONGER, I WILL BE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT THIS TASK THE FORMER EMPEROR ENTRUSTED TO ME.

TO CONQUER WEI AND REUNITE THE REALM WAS THE GREATEST DESIRE OF THE FORMER EMPEROR.

WHILE I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR FEELINGS, I AM AFRAID I MUST VOICE MY OBJECTIONS.


INDEED, THE COSTS OF THE NANMAN CAMPAIGN WERE GREAT, BUT SO TOO WERE THE TRIBUTE I HAVE EXTRACTED FROM THE NANMAN.
OUR MANPOWER AND FUNDS HAVE STILL YET TO FULL RECOVER AFTER YOUR EXTENSIVE CAMPAIGN INTO THE DEEP SOUTH. DESPITE THIS, YOU REQUEST A WAR AGAINST WEI, WHO IS THREE TIMES OUR STRENGTH?


YOU ASK WHY I WISH TO ATTACK WEI WHO IS THREE TIMES OUR STRENGTH. I SAY IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY ARE THREE TIMES OUR STRENGTH. ALREADY RULED BY A THIRD-GENERATION OF CAO CAO, WEI'S ALREADY BOUNTIFUL SUPPLY OF MEN, HORSES, AND GRAIN BECOMES EVER MORE AMPLE WITH TIME. IF WE DO NOT TAKE ACTION NOW, WE WILL SOON FIND THEM TOO POWERFUL TO EVEN RESIST. IN SHORT, TO TAKE NO ACTION IS TO WAIT FOR OUR INEVITABLE FALL.

WITH A NEW, YOUNG EMPEROR ON THE WEI THRONE, PERHAPS NOW IS OUR CHANCE.

THE CHANCELLOR SPEAKS WISELY, YOUR MAJESTY.

WEI IS THREE TIMES GREATER IN TERRITORIAL SIZE AND FIVE TIMES GREATER IN POPULATION. GIVE THEM MORE YEARS OF STABILITY AND WE WILL BE UTTERLY OVERPOWERED.

THE CHANCELLOR IS RIGHT.

THEN I WILL GET TO ORGANIZING OUR FORCES FOR THIS NORTHERN CAMPAIGN.

VERY WELL, I GRANT YOU THE COMMAND OF THE ARMY FOR A CAMPAIGN AGAINST WEI.

LEFT ARMY GENERAL:
FLYING GENERAL, LIAO HUA

RIGHT ARMY COMMANDER:
GENERAL WHO EXERTS MIGHT,
MA ZHONG

RIGHT ARMY GENERAL:
GENERAL OF REASSURANCE,
MARQUIS OF THE IMPERIAL
DOMAIN, ZHANG NI

CENTRAL ARMY COMMANDER:
GENERAL OF CHARIOTS AND
CAVALRY, LIU YAN

CENTRAL ARMY GENERAL:
GENERAL OF WIDESPREAD MIGHT,
DENG ZHI

ADVANCE ARMY COMMANDER:
MAJOR UNDER CHANCELLOR
AND GENERAL WHO QUELLS
THE NORTH, WEI YAN.

ADVANCE ARMY GENERALS:
GOVERNOR OF FUFENG, ZHANG
YI, AND GENERAL OF CAMP
DEFENSE, WANG PING.

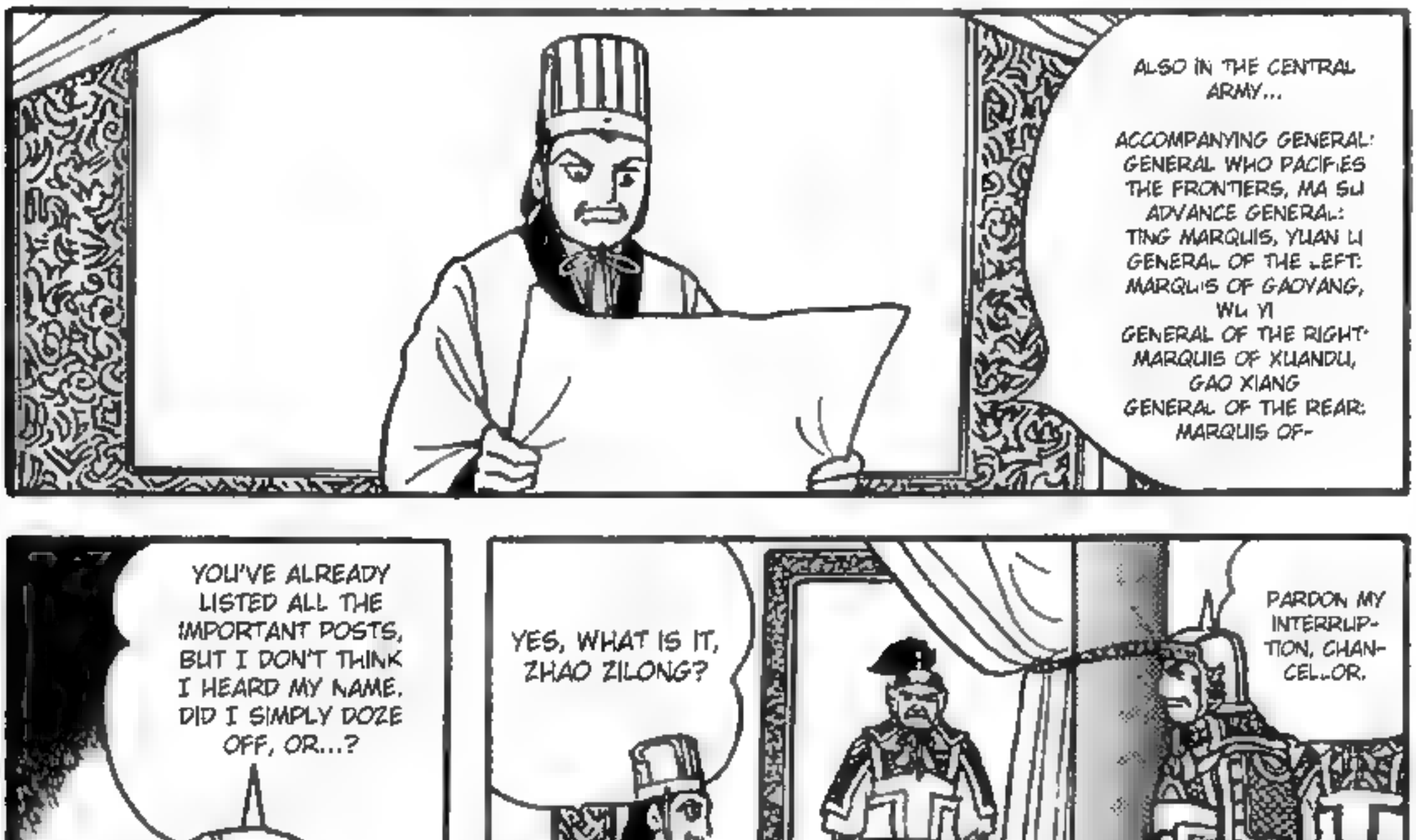
REAR ARMY COMMANDER: LI HUI
REAR ARMY GENERAL:
GOVERNOR OF HANZHONG,
LU YIN

LEFT ARMY COMMANDER: CHIEF
OF THE COMMISSARIAT, MA DAI

*SOME OF THE ABOVE TITLES HAVE ACTUAL DUTIES ASSOCIATED WITH IT, SUCH AS CHIEF OF THE COMMISSARIAT, BUT MANY ARE HONOURARY OR ARE ARCHAIC TITLES THAT NO LONGER MEAN WHAT THEY ONCE DID EX. CHARIOTS USED IN TITLES BUT NO LONGER USED BY THE ARMIES OF THIS TIME)

LU YIN ACTUAL NAME IS LU YI, BUT MISTAKENLY WRITTEN AS LU YU IN MANY VERSIONS OF THE NOVEL

*TING 亭 SUB COUNTY LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION IN QIN AND HAN DYNASTIES, SOMETIMES TRANSLATED AS COMMUNE COMPOSED OF USUALLY 10 HAMLETS 里 EACH WITH 20 FAMILIES. TING MARQUIS IS THE LOWEST RANKING MARQUIS (侯)


ALSO IN THE CENTRAL ARMY...
ACCOMPANYING GENERAL: GENERAL WHO PACIFIES THE FRONTIERS, MA SU
ADVANCE GENERAL: TING MARQUIS, YUAN LI
GENERAL OF THE LEFT: MARQUIS OF GAOYANG, WU YI
GENERAL OF THE RIGHT: MARQUIS OF XUANDU, GAO XIANG
GENERAL OF THE REAR: MARQUIS OF-
YOU'VE ALREADY LISTED ALL THE IMPORTANT POSTS, BUT I DON'T THINK I HEARD MY NAME. DID I SIMPLY DOZE OFF, OR...?
YES, WHAT IS IT, ZHAO ZILONG?
PARDON MY INTERRUP-TION, CHAN-CEL-OR.
LONG HAVE I SERVED THE FORMER EMPEROR, ALL TO REALIZE HIS DREAM OF CONQUERING THE WEI AND REUNITING THE REALM!
WHAT!
NO, YOU HEARD CORRECTLY. YOU ARE TO STAY BEHIND AND DEFEND SHU.

I SYMPATHIZE, AND I DO WISH TO UTILIZE YOUR TALENTS, BUT...

AND YET YOU SAY I'M TO STAY BEHIND IN THE MOST CRITICAL CAMPAIGN OF OUR LIFETIME!?

YOU REFUSE TO TAKE ME ALONG ON ACCOUNT OF MY AGE!?

YOU ARE NOW REACHING AN AGE WHEN THE STRESSES AND FATIGUE OF CAMPAIGNING CAN TAKE A GREAT TOLL ON YOUR HEALTH. I DO NOT WISH TO UNNECESSARILY HASTEN THE END OF THE LAST OF THE 5 TIGER GENERALS.

THE DEATH OF MA CHAO SOON AFTER MY RETURN TO THE CAPITAL SHOCKED ME GREATLY.

OF COURSE NOT. YOUR DEEDS WERE WORTHY OF YOUR TITLE AS A TIGER GENERAL OF SHU.

TRUE, I ADMIT I AM NOT AS YOUNG AS THE OTHER GENERALS, BUT HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN MY FEATS IN THE RECENT SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN!? I AM NOT BESTED BY THE YOUNG JUST YET!

AS I SAID BEFORE, I WISH FOR YOU TO LIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO HELP OUR EMPIRE. MOREOVER, IF YOU WERE TO FALL TO SOME SICKNESS, OUR WHOLE ARMY WOULD BE DEMORALIZED, CONSIDERING YOUR STATURE.

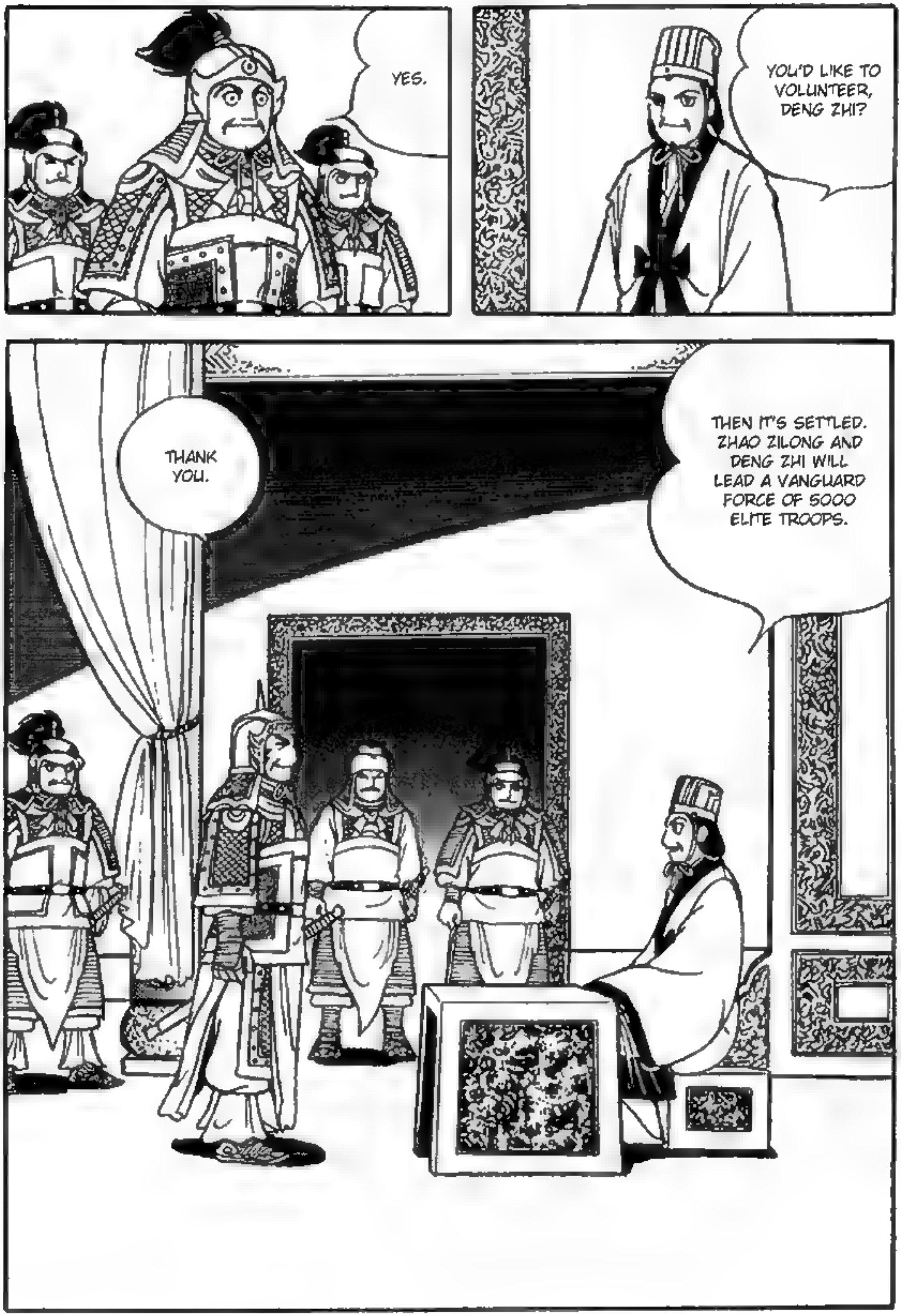
THEN WHY TREAT ME LIKE A DECREPIT OLD MAN!?

IF YOU WOULD RATHER HAVE ME DIE AS A DECREPIT OLD MAN LYING SICK ON HIS BED, I WILL DEFY YOU BY TAKING OUT MY SWORD RIGHT NOW AND COMMIT SUICIDE!

I CANNOT ACCEPT THIS! I MUST PARTICIPATE IN THIS CAMPAIGN NO MATTER WHAT! I AM A WARRIOR WHO HAS CONSIDERED DEATH ON THE BATTLEFIELD THE HIGHEST HONOUR FOR ALL MY LIFE!

ALLOW ME TO ACCOMPANY GENERAL ZHAO ZILONG.

VERY WELL. SEEING HOW YOU INSIST SO STRONGLY, I CANNOT REFUSE. THE QUESTION NOW IS WHO WILL BE YOUR VICE GENERAL.


YES.
YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, DENG ZHI?
THANK YOU.
THEN IT'S SETTLED. ZHAO ZILONG AND DENG ZHI WILL LEAD A VANGUARD FORCE OF 5000 ELITE TROOPS.

SPRING, THIRD
MONTH IN THE 5TH
YEAR OF BEGINNING
PROSPERITY (227 AD).

ZHUGE LIANG
ORGANIZED AND
LED A TOTAL FORCE
OF 300,000 FOR HIS
AMBITIOUS
NORTHERN
CAMPAIGN.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

前
出師表

FORMER
CHU SHI BIAO

(PETITION FOR
WAR/MEMORIAL FOR
DISPATCHING TROOPS)

-WRITTEN BY ZHUGE LIANG
KONGMING IN 227 AD-

*TRANSLATION TAKEN FROM
C. H. BREWITT-TAYLOR'S
TRANSLATION OF ROMANCE
OF THE THREE KINGDOMS,
CHAPTER 91

The First Ruler had accomplished but half his great task at his death. At this moment the empire is in three parts, and our country is weak; it is a most critical moment for us. Still, ministers are not remiss in the capital, and loyal and devoted soldiers sacrifice their lives abroad, for they still remember the special kindness of the First Ruler and wish to show their gratitude to him by service to Your Majesty. Therefore it would be indeed fitting that you should extend your holy virtue to glorify his virtuous memory in the stimulation of the will of your purposeful officers. Your Majesty should not lose yourself in the pursuit of mean things, quoting phrases to confound the eternal principles of rectitude, and so preventing remonstrance from honest people. One rule applies to the palace of the Emperor and the residence of a courtier; there must be one law rewarding the good and punishing the evil. Evil-doers and law-breakers, as also true and good people, should be dealt with according to their deserts by the officers concerned in order to manifest Your Majesty's impartial and enlightened administration. Partiality is wrong, as is one law for the court and another for the regions.

The High Ministers Fei Yi, Guo Youzhi, and Dong Yun are honest men, devotedly anxious to be loyal to the last degree; wherefore His Late Majesty chose them in his testament. My advice is to consult them in all Palace matters, great or small, before taking action. Your Majesty will reap the enormous advantage of having any failings corrected.

General Xiang Chong is a man of well-balanced temperament, versed in military matters, to whom, after testing him, the late Emperor applied the epithet 'capable'. The consensus of opinion is that Xiang Chong should be Grand Commander. My advice is to consult him in all military matters, great or small, whereby your military forces will yield their maximum, each one being employed to the best advantage.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Attract worthy people; repel mean ones. This policy achieved the glory of the Former Hans, while its reversal ruined the Latter Hans. When the late Emperor was with us, he often discussed this with your servant, and he took much to heart the story of Emperors Huan and Ling.

The Chair of the Secretariat Chen Zhen, Commander Zhang Si, and Minister Jiang Wan are all incorruptible and enlightened people, honest to the death. I wish that Your Majesty should have them near and hold them in confidence. If this be done, then the glory of the House of Han will be quickly consummated.

I was originally a private person, a farmer in Nanyang, concerned only to secure personal safety in a troubled age and not seeking conversation with the contending nobles. His Late Majesty, the First Ruler, overlooking the commonness of my origin, condescended to seek me thrice in my humble cot and consult me on the trend of events. His magnanimity affected me deeply, and I consented to do my utmost for him. Then came defeat, and I took office at a moment of darkest outlook and at a most difficult crisis. This is twenty-one years ago. The First Ruler recognized my diligent care, and when dying he confided the great task to me. From that day I have lived a life of anxiety lest I should fail in my trust and so dim his glory.

That is why I undertook the expedition to the lands beyond the Lu River. Now the Nanman have been quelled, and our army is in good condition. I ought to lead it against the north, where I may meet with a measure of success in the removal of the wicked ones, the restoration of Han, and a return to the old capital. This is my duty out of gratitude to the late Emperor and loyalty to Your Majesty. As to a discussion of the pros and cons and giving a true version of the whole matter, that belongs to Guo Youzhi and Fei Yi and Dong Yun. I desire Your Majesty to confide to me the task of slaying the rebels and restoring the Hans. If I fail, then punish me by telling the spirit of the late Emperor. If you know not what restoration implies, that is the fault of your advisers.

Your Majesty should take pains to be guided into the right path and examine carefully what is laid before you, carefully remembering the late Emperor's testament. I cannot express what would be my delight if you had the goodness to accept and act on my advice.

Now I am about to depart on a distant expedition, I write this with tears,
and in deep emotions, beyond my words.

eBOOKで
快適読書生活

http://www.ebookjapan.jp

電子書籍版

三国志

49

横山 光輝

© 光プロダクション／潮出版社

Original 潮出版社 希望コミックス

Digital Distributor
eBOOK Initiative Japan Co.,Ltd.
〒101-0062　東京都千代田区神田駿河台 2-9-18
http://www.ebookjapan.jp